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704

Newspaper Report

1898

11

REPORT OF THE NATIVE PAPERS EXAMINED BY THE TRANSLATORS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS. (1898)

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For the Fortnight ending the 15th January 1898.

No. 1 of 1898.

III. LEGISLATION.

Observations on the Hindu Gains of Learning Bill.

25. A correspondent to the SWADESAMITRAN, of the 18th December, referring to the Hindu Gains of Learning Bill, remarks as follows: This Act will greatly discourage Enlish education and must prove detrimental to the interests of the people of India, inasmuch as high-caste Hindus have no other alternative than to acquire English education to earn their livelihood in these days; unlike the Europeans who will not hesitate to betake themselves to any kind of profession, the Hindus will not follow occupations which their caste scruples will prevent them from pursuing. What induced the author of the Bill to bring such a question before the Legislative Council is really inexplicable, while the Europeans themselves condemn it as being detrimental to the welfare of the Hindus.

Comments on the Hindu Gains of Learning Bill.

28. The VETTIKKODIYON? of the 25th December, observes on the Hindu Gains of Learning Bill as follows:-The Hindu law as it is will answer all the purposes of Hindu families. If the Hindu Gains of Learning bill be passed into an Act, another Bill under the designation of the Hindu Gains of Trade Bill will be brought, and Government to maintain its attitude of impartiality cannot help passing that Bill also, and the object intended to be gained by the Hindu Gains of Learning Act will when be practically frustrated. As the passing of the Bill in question will seriously affect the harmonious feeling which now exists among the undivided brothers of Hindu families, and will induce the eldest brother to disregard the education of his younger brothers altogether and also to desert his father and brothers, it behoves the authorities to see that it is not passed into an Act.

V. PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Reflections on famine in India.

36. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 9th December, alluding to the committee formed by the Secretary of State and the Government of India in connection with the famine of this country, observes that the chief causes of the outbreak of famine in India, as Government is aware, are the poverty of the people caused by the imposition of heavy taxes on them by Government to meet its exorbitant and unnecessary expenses, such as those connected with the frontier war and so forthe and the upkeep of a highly-paid European establishment. It concludes with the remark that so long as this state of things is suffered to continue there is every certainty that famine will find a permanent abode in India, and that it is only when higher offices in the State are conferred on competent natives on a low pay, and when the money unprofitably spent on useless wars is utilised in improving irrigational facilities, famine will disappear from this land and the people will enjoy prosperity and happiness.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

The resolutions of the National Congress at Amraoti.

42. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 3rd January, says that the propositions considered by the congress this year are all important. The war on the frontier will prove extremely costly. India in her present circumstances can hardly bear the expenses without burdensome and intolerable taxation. Since the war has been undertaken for "Imperial purposes," that is, for strengthening Empire as a whole, it is but just that England must bear, in part at least, the cost of the frontier expedition. Conservative statesmen in England have expressed a willingness to ask Parliament for a vote of money to meet the expenses of the war. If the congress petitions Parliament that this should be done, it will strengthen the hands of the Parliamentary party in favour of the proposal. ~~Sexial~~ Section M of the "omnibus" resolution regarding the deposition of the Indian princes or

707

chiefs and section N regarding the extension of the jury system are worth urging tin the petition which it is in contemplation to address to Parliament. The paper, however, does not approve of the resolutions concerning the holding of the Civil Service Examination in India, the compensation allowance to European Government servants and the establishment of military colleges in India, because these concessions are, in the opinion of the paper, not likely to be granted in the immediate future, and to ask for them is to risk the fate of the more feasible reforms by linking them with those that are impracticable. The establishment of a permanent settlement is a valuable reform. If it is intended by this to create a body of zemindars, as in Bengal, the paper would protest against it; but if the object is to form a body of contented and well-to-do peasants with fixity of tenures, it will be a happy change. A flourishing peasantry, not living from hand to mouth, sure of their tenures and thereby able to accumulate some capital to improve their k land, is one of the greatest sources of strength for any country.

The National Congress.

45. The VRITTANTA PATRIKA, of the 13th January, says that the so-called National Congress cannot be called "National" at all since it does not represent the masses. It may be said at the most to represent the views of the educated and advanced section of the people. The editor does not think it desirable that the ignorant ryot and the cooly should know what the congress is about. Nevertheless he is glad that educated men from all parts of the country do assemble and discuss what is best for the Government and for the country. While taxthinking it would be well for the Government to make public the grounds for the imprisonment of the Nattus, the editor condemns the congress for the treatment it accorded to Mr.Gokhale who honourably apologised for the aspersions cast on men who had worked faithfully when he found that he could not substantiate the charges he brought against them. The congress has given expression to sentiments of loyalty to the British Government, but it is not easy for him to say what are its real sentiments.

708

48. A leader in the MANORAMA, of the 10th January, alluding to the National Congress recent[ly] held at Amraoti, says that owing

The late National Congress.

to the famine, plague, press prosecutions and the Government reviving the obsolete Regulations of 1818 and 1827, which empower them to deport persons without any trial and to confiscate their property, many reasonably doubted whether any one would attend the last congress and whether any of those that attended would speak. But in spite of all these difficulties and threats there were 701 delegates from all parts of India, and nearly 3,000 spectators including Europeans, Hindus, Muhammadans and Parsis. These delegates who have the greatest faith in the British justice and the utmost affection for the British Government have not, in spite of the terrors created in their minds by the Government of India, refrained from giving out their opinion on matters affecting the welfare of both the Government and the people and also pointing out fearlessly the errors in thei[r] actions. Even the Anglo-Indian opponents of the congress have admitted that the presidential speech of the Hon'ble Mr.Sankaran was bold and befitting the occasion. It is a matter to be greatly deplored that the British Cabinet and the Parliament, listening to the ill advice of some of the selfish Anglo-Indian journalists, and some of their relatives, suspect the unquestioned loyalty of the Indians and turn a deaf ear to their just and reasonable grievances and requirements. (The demands of the congress are just and moderate and well merit the kind and impartial attention of the British Government.)

For the Fortnight ending the 31st January 1898.

No. 2 of 1898.

III. LEGISLATION.

38. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 24th January, has a leading article which runs as follows:-It seems as if a species of madness had come over some of the rulers of this land. They have for some time past been going terribly astray. They have been doing what they ought not to have done, and they have left undone what they should have performed. This is not pleasant to contemplate, but is true. While the famine and plague were in the land, and were costing the treasury crores of rupees, those in power must needs go to war with the tribes on the frontier There was not the slightest occasion for this war. It was perfectly uncalled for, and why it was undertaken nobody seems able to give a definite answer. It has already cost a lagge sum, and before it is concluded it may cost much more. Many lives have been lost, much suffering has been caused by the wretched business, and the whole affair is condemned by all sensible men. But the authorities have gone further than this. They have introduced a Bill into the Legislative Council, the object of which is to curtail the liberty of the press. Not a more foolish act could be imagined. The reason given is that there is a good deal of sedition in the land, and this must be put down at any cost. We said that a Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council to gag the press. Rather we ought to have said that the terrible section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code is tried by a Judge either of the High or Sessions Court. Now the power will be extended to 2nd-class magistrates, and the consternation caused by this extention in the country at large is tremendous. Now what will be the result of this repression? The rulers will not be able to ascertain what the people want, what they think, and tremendous blunders will be the result. If they cannot give vent to their feelings in the papers they will discover some other method, and the Government will not know what they

Gagging the press.

+ is to be extended. Whereas a case that came under this section could only be tried

710

are thinking about or doing. They may plot, they may work up conspiracies, but the rulers will be completely in the dark about the matter, and should any trouble xhappen it will come upon them without the least warning. The disease, whatever it may be, will be driven inwards instead of being expelled outwards. Surely this is a mistake, and the rulers will find it out in time, though how they think they are doing the best to keep away trouble.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

The National Congress and Mr.Tilak.

57. A leaderin the KERALA PATRIKA, of the 15th January, says that the executive committee of the late National Congress m made a proposal that the congress should memorialise Government to exercise its mercy and release Mr.Tilak from jail on the ground that the verdict of the jury in the case against him was not unanimous, and that his confinement has told seriously upon his health, but for some reason or other it was not brought before the meeting. The paper applauds the action of the congress in having dropped such a proposal which would have been quite distasteful even to Mr.Tilak himself, who, it is remarked, has not in p spite of so much suffering abandoned the manly courage which enables him to encounter it with coolness. When the name of Mr.Tilak was mentioned in the congress meeting, the whole audience rose up EN MASSE and enthusiastically cheered, waving their handkerchiefs, etc. This itself is xaclear proof that the sentiment of those present in the congress was that Mr.Tilak was not at all gxitty guilty. How many persons in England have suffered like this. The order of the king cannot be disobeyed, and so Mr.Tilak has no other go but to suffer his present miseries. It is only, as the Hon'ble Mr.Sankaran Nayar said the other day, the timidity of Government that actuated them to convict a man of such a high position. The Government themselves will in the long run be convinced x that their action was very unjust.

For the Fortnight ending the 15th February 1898.

No. 3 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(k) General.

British administration in India.

27. The SASILEKHA, of the 1st February, remarks that the cost of governing India is so great, because the British are of opinion that they have conquered country by force of arms and that the natives are not trustworthy. It deeply regrets that Government should entertain such an idea, and says that the Indians should clamour forequal rights with the British and that the spirit of Her Majesty's Proclamation of 1858 should be given effect to. It adds a prayer that the Arms Act should be repealed, that natives should be admitted into the volunteer corps, and that military schools should be established in India to train the natives for holding responsible posts in the army.

The administration of His Excellency Lord Elgin.

28. The SASILEKHA, of the 8th February, observes that His Excellency Lord Elgin belongs to the Liberal party in England, which has been fighting for various privileges for Ireland, and that his appointment as Governor-General of India was hailed with joy by the people. But though the rate of exchange has risen and Government effected a large saving. He allowed himself to be guided by the Military officers and plunged the country into a disastrous and expensive war with the frontier tribes. He was therefore unable to carry out even a single measure calculated to benefit the country. Instead of feeling pity for the condition of the people suffering from the effects of war, famine and pestilence. His Excellency suspected their loyalty and attempted to pass unjust and retrograde laws. His Excellency failed to sympathise with the people in their manifold sufferings, but patiently lent his ears to those who aimed at reducing the natives to the condition of slaves. If the Viceroy at present had been a Ripon, a Mayo, or a Lawrence, there would have been no wars, and the famine and the plague would have been nipped in the bud and he would have exercised his own independent judgment. But His

x Contrary to expectation, His Excellency has failed to do good to the people

Excellency Lord Elgin was guided by the Secretary of State on "four (?) occasions" and he committed great blunders. Instead of ascertaining ~~a Famine Commission~~ the causes of the famine and trying to remedy the evil, he has appointed a Famine Commission to amend the Famine Code. He failed to prescribe what proportion of income each province had to pay to the Imperial Government. In fact, there is not a single item of good that he has done to the people. It, therefore, prays that during the short time that he holds the destinies of the country in his hands, he will throw up the Sedition Law Amendment Bills, set the Nattu brothers at liberty, release the poor Tilak from jail, bring peace and satisfaction to the people's hearts and establish his name for ever in India.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

Comment on the resolution passed by the London Congress meeting.

47. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 18th January, reporting that the London Congress has passed a resolution to the effect that the English Government is the cause of the frequent outbreak of famine and pestilence in India, of the unjust frontier war in the North-West, of the iniquitous punishment of the editors of newspapers in Bombay, of the strenuous efforts on the part of the Government of India to gag the patriots of this country who have received the benefit of higher education of the detention of Nattu brothers in jail without trial, and of every other hardship the people of this country are now smarting under, observes that is not at all just and proper to condemn the English Government even for the misfortunes which are due more or less to natural causes and to utter ignorance on the part of the masses of the physical laws that govern the world, although Government may be said to be, to no small extent, the cause of the poverty of the people who cannot prosper owing to ~~xxxxxx~~ the heavy taxation they groan under. The paper concludes with the remark that it is not the characteristic of the English Government to rule over a country by threats and severe regulations which

713

is the prominent feature of the barbarous Muhammadan Government, and that it does notbecome the English Governmentment to begin to govern us in a manner different from the one which it was hitherto adopting, and exhorts the people to represent to Government thier greivances in a respectful language.

For the Fortnight ending the 28th February 1898.

No. 4 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(k) General.

Administration of justice in England and India.

21. The ANDHRAPRAKASIKA, of the 19th February, referring to the conviction of Lord William Neville, commends the strict and impartial administration of jastice in England, and suggests that, if the British Government in India had similarly dealt impartial justiee to all without making any distinction between natives and Europeans, it would have greatly added to its glory.

Commenting on Her Majesty's speech recently read in Parliament.

29. In commenting upon the speech of the Queen-Empress read in Parliament on the 8th February the SHAMS-UL-AKBAR, of the 14th February, says that what Her Majesty thiks about the disappearance of the plague and of famine in India is incorrect, and attributes the cause thereof to misrepresentation. The editor in drawing a contrast between the number of fatal plague cases that occurred last year and from the beginning of the present year up to date, observes that in Bombay alone from 150 to 200 people die daily. Moreover, the disease has spread to several parts in India, causing great panic amongst the inhabitants, About the famine and scarcity the editor remarks that even the affluent feel its dire effects. Notwithstanding all this, Government does not give practical sympathy as regards collecting the revenue. The editor hopes that the Lord Chancellor will amend the speech by pointing out to Her Majesty that what she thinks about the famine and plague is incorrect.

714

III. LEGISLATION.

Observations on the passing of the Sedition Bill into an Act.

32. The SWADESAMITRAN OF THE 19th February, reporting with deep regret that the Bill amending section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code has been passed into an Act in spite of the united protest of the native members of the Legislative Council, observes that the Act will do no substantial good either to Government or to the people, but will certainly cause immense mischief and trouble which Government will not fail to perceive in course of time. The paper concludes with the remarks that both the Europeans and the Natives are unanimous in thinking that there was never a time when the Government of India was so thoughtless as it was while passing the Sedition Bill into an Act.

The Sedition Law.

33. The SASILEKHA, of the 22nd February, remarks that, after all, the Government has carried out its own inentions in amending section 124-A and some other sections of the Indian Penal Code, in spite of all the representations made by the natives as well an non-official Europeans in India.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

Comments on the letter of Her Majesty read before Parliament

52. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 10th February, writes as follows:-

In the letter of Her Majesty read before Parliament on its reopening this year there was but a brief reference to the frontier war and the plague, and to the famine which is said to be drawing to a close; it is a pity that the letter made no mention whatever of the measures to be adopted in connection with the frontier war, of the division between India and England of the cost of the war, and of the steps to be taken for preventing the recurrence of famine in the years to come. About 50 lakhs of rupees have been expended on the war, and Government is fully convinced of the inadvisability of engaging itself in such unprofitable wars. Our expectation that England would be required to pay a portion

of the cost, in consideration of the fact that India is groaning under heavy taxation, has not been realized. Her Majesty has said that the coming year would be a period of prosperity to India and that xxx woult not therefore be reasonable to ask England to xxxx help India. It is not, as matter of favour, that we ask England to meet a portion of the cost of the frontier war; for it was undertaken in view to prevent the Russians from invading India and to perpetuate the British rule in this country; it is therefore just and proper that the expenses of the war should be defrayed by both India and England The assertion of Her Majesty that the coming year will be prosperou is not correct, in that it is based on a misconception that famine has been thoroughly rooted out of India. Even this year monsoon has failed in many parts and the authorities are seriously contemplating the opening of relief works. The argue that it is not advisable that England should pay a portion of the cost of the war inasmuch as such a course would encourage the authorities in India to indulge more freely in wars, is after all a strategem. The real object of such a misleading statement is too well known. No money will be paid out of the British exchequer unless and until the Parliament approves of the xxxxxxx measures of the ministers who have been xxxx xxxx the cause of the war, which should be ultimately explained to the Britis electors to their entire satisfaction; and the British ministers are aware of the fact that their version of the cause of the war will not commend itself to the British electors and that they will be taken to task for their blunder. It is ~~insipid-langu~~ really painful to note that Her Majesty has spoken of India in vague and insipid language. Nevertheless, without being disheartened, we expect such of the members of the British Parliament as have been taking no small interest in the welfare of India to advocate our cause in times of necessity. The Governor of Bombay and the Viceroy have done all that they could to deprive us of our feelings of loyalty to the British Government. No human effort can succeed in making us disloyal as we are a nation noted for loyalty and forbearance.

716

56. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 17th February, writes as follows:-It has been decided that

Remarks on a suggestion of the Secretary of State for India.

India alone shoude bear the expenses of the frontier war. In response to the cry for peauniary help raised by the Hindus, it has been suggested by the Secretary of State for India that a pound should be made to have a permanent rate of exchange and that European merchants should be encouraged to utilize their capital in carrying European xxx on merchandise in India, so that the profit gained by them may be expended in this country in view to enable the poorer classes among the Hindus to secure sufficient occupation and means of livelihood. We are sorry to observe that such a proposal will, instead of producing the desired effect of doing good to the natives, operate as a severe infliction on the people who are already groaning under heavy taxation. As the frontier war was begun in the interest of England in view to prevent the Russians from steppingxxx into India should they rise in arms against the Englaah, it is but reasonable that England should exclusively bear the whole cost of the war. But, as India depends on England for her safety, the former may be required to meet a portion of the cost. Impartial thinkers having at heart the welfare of both England and India have expressed the same opinion. Does it stand to reason that poor India should be saddled with the whole cost of the war? In regard to the suggestion of the Secretaary of State, it may be said that its adoption must necessarixly affect local commerce and industry which are already in a retrogade condition. The settlement of many Europeans in India as xpx planters and the remittance of large sums of money from this country have already proved detrimental to theinterest of India. Should the rate of exchange proved be permanently fixed once for all, it would only induce larger numbers of Europeans to repair to India like so many locusts; and the export of money to foreign countries must necessarily be still greater. In these circumstances, the suggestion of the Secretary of State instead of proving beneficial to the Indians as alleged by him, will seriously tell on their material prosperity in the long run. What a great calamity it will be to India?

712

57. A correspondent to the ~~newspaper~~ Swadesamitran of the 17th February, reporting that the congress will hold its meeting this year in Madras, suggests that a congress committee should be nominated in each taluk of a district, and that every village comprised in the taluk should be represented in the central committee which should hold public meetings in any two or three conspicuous localities of the taluk at least four times a year and should nominate delegates to represent the voters at the ensuing meeting of the congress. The correspondent thinks that the method here recommended will not only convince the masses of the usefulness and importance of the congress, but will also create in them a spirit of unanimity and co-operation and enable them to represent their grievances then and there.

A few suggestions regarding the congress.

60. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 21st February, says:-From the published report of the evidence given before the so-called Famine Commission which is now sitting in Madras, it is evident that this commission is more or less a waste of public money. It has examined a number of official witnesses who have had direct personal expeirence of the administration of relief during the recent famine, but after carefully reading their evidenc one fails to find much that would be of use when the commission comes to suggest improvements in the present Famine Code.

The Famine Commission a waste of public money.

For the Fortnight ending the 15th March 1898.

No. 5 of 1898.

I. FOREIGN POLITICS.

2. The SHAMS-UL-AKBAR, of the 28th February, publishes translation of an extract from the Arabic paper called AL-MUVAID, of Cairo, under the head "Treatment of the Nawabs of Carnatic by the English," with the following superscription, viz., "We are not responsible for the opinion expressed by the AL-MUVAID." The extract if to the following effect:-

The Nawabs of Carnatic and the British Government.

718

"The following historical communication, which was received by us (the AL-MUVAID) on the 24th January an inhabitant of the City of Madras (name not given), is inserted in our columns as a warning to those who act according to our ~~said~~ advice (SIC):

"In the 12th century of the Muhammadan era (1789), when Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan was the ruler of the Carnatic, the English were very loyal and faithful to him and had assured him that they would sacrifice their lives on his behalf on any emergency. This loyalty on their part resulted in creating in the mind of the Nawab love for the confidence in them.

"After having thus made the Nawab to be attached to themselves they presented to him a friendly letter from His Britannic Majesty together with many choice and valuable presents. In this letter the Nawab was addressed as 'the Great Kind of Hindustan.' Subsequently the English perusaded the Nawab to sign a treaty which he did on account of the flattering terms used in the beginning of the treaty, being blind to the evil intention of the English contained in its latter part.

"By the treaty the Nawab ~~the~~ was bound to defray the expenses of 1,200 British soldiers and to refrain from giving military appointments to any but the English. In return the English promised to protect his kingdom from external enemies.

"After this event the English issued a proclamation throughout India declaring the Nawab their great ally and supporter, which persuaded the Nawab to grant them fertile lands yielding three millions of rupees annually and an extensive plot of land near the beach, Madras, for constructing a fort and other buildings. A considerable sum of money and many precious gems were also granted to them. In short, the Nawab treated the English as a man treats his own brother or an intimate friend.

"The Nawab was foolish or impolitic in considering the English to be his friends and supporters, as he was not allowed to re-establish his army which he had foolishly disbaded.

"The Nawab died in 1210 Hijri (1796 A.D.) and was succeeded by his son Umdat-ul-umra, and after the death of the latter prince, Ali Hussain his son took his seat upon the musnad without the

719

permission of the English, but he was subsequently removed and his cousin Azeem-ud Dowlah placed on the musnad. Another treaty was made with this young prince by which the Carnatic was taken over by the English, and one hundred thousand rupees were settled on the Nawab for the time being asx an allowance.

"A letter from the King of England was also received in which His Exxxxx Majesty in recognising the treaty assured the Nawab that so long as the English remained in India the treaty would be respected.

"At the time when this foolish Nawab was placed on the musnad there were xmany competent sons of the Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan, but the English overlooked their claims for the above-mentioned purpose (viz., taking the Carnatic into their possession). He died in 1235 Hijri (1820 A.D.) and was succeeded by his son Auzam Jah, and after Auzam Jah is infant son Nawab ~~Ghulam Khan assumed full powers he began to~~ Nawab Ghulam Muhammad Ghaus Khan was plcaed on the musnad and his uncle Azeem Jah was appointed Regent. When the Nawab Ghulam Muhammad Ghaus Khan assumed full powers he began to gain the hearts of the people by being kind and munificent. He died in 1272 Hijri (1856 A.D.) without issue. On the Nawab Azeem Jah representing his claims to the musnad, the English advised him to petition the British Parliament He did so, and after a trial which laster eleven years he was declared not to be entitled to the musnad for the reason that he was not the son of the last Nawab of the Carnatic.

"There is another Native State near the Carnatic called Mysore which was also taken under the protection of the English in the same way as the Carnatic was taken. But after the death of its last Raja, his adoptde son was placed on the musnad. It is pity the claims of Nawab Azeem Jah, ~~xxx~~ uncle of the Nawab Ghulam Muhammad Ghaus Khan, brother of Auzam Jah, son of Azeem-ud Dowlah and grandson of Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan, were overlooked and that he was not considered to have claims equal to those of an adopted son.

"After the order was passed by the British Parliament disallowing his claims to the musnad, Azeem Jah repeatedly petitioned

720

Her Majesty, who settled a sum of Rs. 25,000 per mensem on him with the title of Prince of Arcot. He enjoyed this for seven years and died. After his death the pension was reduced by half and is distributed among his relatives inclusive of the present Prince of Arcot whose family is in straitened circumstances

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II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(j) Salt and Abkari.

Salt revenue administration.

31. The SASILEKHA, of the 8th March, writing about the administration of salt revenue, notes that Government is easily collecting Rs.200,00000 a-year from salt. Those who propose the abolition of the salt-tax have therefore to suggest to Government the means of making good this amount. They could show that by refraining from making wars, reducing the army and appointing natives to higher grades in the Government service, Government would save a great deal of expenditure and sustain no loss, though the whole of the xxdxx said sum of Rs. 200,00,000 might not be realised thereby. The Government should therefore, the paper says, give its best attention to this matter.

(k) General.

The interest which Her Majesty the Queen-Empress takes in Indian Matters.

42. The SHAMS-UL-Akbar, of the 7th March. Maulavi Rafi-ud-din Ahmad writes xof the interest which Her Majesty x takes in Indian matters, and as a proof thereof says she commenced to study Hindustani language in her 72nd year, and though she has to perform heavy work daily, yet she writes her diary in that language without fail. Her Majesty is very x sympathetic towards the Indians. One cold day when an Indian ayah was passing shoeless, she x saw this and out of compassion ordered the ayah should be provided with shoes at once. Last year somepilgrims went to see Buckingham palace. But the guards did not allow them to enter. Her Majesty saw them, after ascertaining who they were, directed that they might be al-

721

lowed to see all that is ever shown to the public. The SHAMS observes that Her Majesty is, in fact, most kind and generous to all and to the people of India in particular.

III. LEGISLATION.

The Sedition Bill

45. A leader in the KERALA CHANDRIKA, of the 2nd March, regrets to observe that the Sedition Bill was passed into law in spite of the strong protest from various public bodies and associations throughout the country and without any of the desirable modifications made by the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill. It remarks that if the actions of officials cannot be criticised in the manner in which they ought to be, the iniquities of the officials will be on the increase. It is true that a prosecution under the Act against any person cannot be launched without obtaining the sanction of Government, but it is doubtful whether the majority of the Judges will be so bold as to acquit the prisoner even if the prosecution evidence is very weak when the Government itself has given the sanction. It is to the British Parliament that the people have to look to for any favourable change in the law under reference, but as the majority of the members of that assembly do not seem to sympathise with the Indians, they cannot hope for any modification of the law until they can secure a majority of sympathisers therein.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

Maltreatment of the natives in Natal.

60. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 22nd February, writes as follows: The Europeans in Natal compel the cooly population, whose five years' term of service has expired, either to renew the service for another five years or to leave the country at once; in default, the coolies are required to pay a poll-tax of £3 which amounts to nearly Rs.50 per annum. The object of the Europeans in Natal is that no Indian should enter their settlement except those specially sent for by them under a license issued for the purpose.

72

purpose. It is a thousand pities that liberty and freedom which form the prominent features of the British Government are denied to the poor Indians resorting to Natal, whose heart-rending grievances deserve the serious attention of the Government of India, who seem to countenance the procedure of the Europeans in Natal for no other reason than that they have a white skin. It is desirable that either the Government of India should altogether forbid the emigration of coolies from India to Natal or that the coolies themselves must decline to go to Natal, unless certain conditions calculated to safeguard their liberty in that foreign country are acceded to by the Natal Government. It is only then that a satisfactory state of things can be secured.

For the Fortnight ending the 31st March 1898.

No. 6 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(k) General.

The Indian budget.

38. The SASILEKHA, of the 25th March, speaking of the Indian budget for 1898-99, remarks that Sir James Westland, the Financial Member, has so manipulated the accounts as to enable him to assert with confidence that the Indian treasury was full in spite of the large expenditure incurred on account of the wars, famine and plague, and that he has even declined the grant from Parliament. But, on a closer examination of accounts, it is evident, says the paper, that Government has been conducting its work by means of borrowed money, and that the administration must consequently come to a standstill if the borrowing should cease. The Government of India, it proceeds to say, is borrowing largely for payment of salaries and pensions in England and for the articles purchased there, and that taxes in India are raised to their maximum and the people are groaning under them, while at the same time military expenditure is increasing every year, and attempts are being made to increase the salaries to the soldiers and officers serving in India.

723

~~39. The SASILEKHA, of the 22nd March, states that the village munsif of Anantapur has refused~~

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The Natu brothers.

40. The SASILEKHA, of the 22nd March, observes that Lord Hamilton assigned three different occasions for the arrest and imprisonment of the Natu brothers in Bombay, and asks whether it is becoming of Her Majesty's Minister to express himself in different ways at different times, and further asks whether the confining of the Natus injail, instead of bringing them to trial before a court of justice, will not affect the prestige of the British administration. It notes that the British xxxx Public and the English press are surprised at the varying replies given by Lord George Hamilton, and believes that the Bombay public may xxx not secure peace xof mind until Natus are set at liberty.

III. LEGISLATION.

The Act for the prevention of sedition.

50. The SURYODAYA, of the 11th March says;-India had been enjoying the blessing of liberty ever since the country passed into the hands of Her Imperial Majesty, and the liberty allowed to the press was particularly useful to the rulers to understand the feelings andopinions of the people. But unfortunately last year theplague broke out in Poona and other parts of the Bombay Presidency, and the soldiers employed by the Government to carry out the measures for its stamping out did some dishonourable acts which the Vernacular xxxx newspapers of the country began to make public and condemn. At about the same time Mr. Rand was assasinated by somebody. The murder was supposed to have been instigated by the newspapers ~~and by the murder was supposed to have been instigated by the newspapers~~ and by the Natus. Not satisfied with the imprisonment of Mr.Tilak and the Natus, Lord Sandhurst recommended the gagging of the press. The Government of India being pressed by its subordinate officers

724

and by the Secretary of State, who in hisignorance of the real condition of India approved of the action, has passed the Sedition Act. The amendment of section 124-A of the Penal Code has made it impossible for the people to express their grievances through the press. The press is obliged to keep its mouth shut however the officials may oppress the people. The Government hopes to make the people loyal by this measure, but it will have quite the contrary effects; it will increase their dissatisfaction. We therefore call upon the Government of Her Majesty to repeal this law and give the people liberty of speech.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

Reflections on the memorial submitted to Her Majesty for the release of Mr.Tilak.

65. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 1st March, says that the conviction of Damodara Chapekar should have convinced Government of the fact that Mr.Tilak and Natu brothers were not at the bottom of the murders committed at Poona, and that it is therefore desirable that Government should be pleased to set them free at once. The paper is exceedingly glad to hear that in England a memorial, signed by such eminent men as Professor Max Miller, Sir Wiliam Hunter, and others, and by several Members of Parliament, has been submitted to Her Majesty praying for the release of Mr.Tilak and earnestly hopes that the memorial will meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Ministers. The paper dilates on the superior linguistic attainments of Mr.Tilak which excited the admiration of many learned men in England, and concludes with the remark that it is nothing but a piece of cruelty to suspect Mr.Tilak, who received the benefits ofhigher education in English and secured a s eat in the Legislative Council, to be guilty of sedition.

Remarks on the Poona murders

66. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 5th March, writes as follows:- Poona murders have been unjustly attributed to disloyalty on the

725

part of the Brahmins of Poona, and a punitive police force has been unnecessarily inflicted on the population of that town. The world has been the scene of many a murder of this kind. The world has been Is it logical to infer that all Muhammadans are disloyal from the fact that a single Muhammadan assassinated Lord Mayo? Can the Parliament accuse the whole population of England of disaffection from the fact that many a ruffian has hitherto attempted to assassinate Her Majesty? Thieves and murderers are found everywhere and their nefarious acts should be disregarded. It is a thousand pities that the Government of Bombay has been made a great ado about the Poona murders perpetrated by a villain, and accused the whole nation of disloyalty and disaffection. The Government of Bombay may be said to have made a mountain of a mole-hill. Just at the time when England has begun to take lively interest in the welfare of India, to direct its careful attention to the state of affairs in this country, to animadvert on the measures of Government and to lend her ear to the grievances of the Indians, Government has accused the Hindus of gross disloyalty, actuated by some motive or other. How unjust it is to charge such of the Hindus as have had the benefit of English (x) ~~blessings of English~~ education, hope for the disappearance of the British rulers from India? What use is he to make of his English education if India is to be governed by any other nation than the English? It is earnestly hoped that the Government of Bombay will annual all that it has done without sufficient forethought.

(x) education with the offence of Sedition. Can any Hindu who enjoys the blessing of English

68. The SASILEKHA, of the 15th March, writes as follows:-

The Secretary of State for India.

Whenever Lord George Hamilton, the present Secretary of State for India, begins to address the Parliament regarding India, he always speaks directly against our interests. Ever since he has been appointed to this great office, he has never spoken in favour of our country. We are paying him annually a sum of £5,000, or, according to the present rate of exchange, Rs.76,000, that he may speak on our behalf in the Parliament in the interests of our country and safeguard our rights. The reason why he does

726.

not speak in our favpur, though receiving such a high salary is not apparent.

FIRST, no sooner had he accepted his present office than he took up the cause of the Lancashire merchants, imposed taxes on yarn and caused impediment to the (succesful) working of the cotton mills in Bombay and Madras. The Lancashire merchants are very rich and very influential in Parliament. If they determine, they can dismiss one Parliament and substitute another for it; whereas India is a voiceless country. There being none to put in a good word om its behalf, this Lord favoured the Lancashire merchants at the expense of the voiceless Indians. The words of the great men advocating India's cause in Parliament are "lost in the air."

SECONDLY, the British waged war against Soudon in Africa. It was resolved then that troops should be sent from India to the war at India's cost. Our Secretary of State himself might well consider how justifiable it is that India should be required to send its troops, wherever a slight disturbance arises in the wide extent of the British dominions, and that the expenses even should be made payable by India.

THIRDLY, our countrymen do not like the wars that are being waged in the north-west frontier of India. Three important civilian members in the Council of His Excellency the Governor-General had declared that the war was unnecessary for the good of the country. But the war was undertaken on the advice of the military "servants". Though the Parliament had consented to pay part of these expenses, our Secretary of State said in the Parliament that there was enough of wealth in India and as the war was required for ~~hx~~ the welfare of India, the expenditure should be fully borne by it.

FOURTHYLY, in the wars now going on in the north-west frontie our sepys fought with as much bravery as the British soldiers and officers. When it was therefore contended in Parliament that the natives that fought well in these wars should be rewarded with "Victoria Cross" medals, intended for gallant warriors, Lord George Hamilton, our Secretary of State, suc-

727

cessfully opposed the motion, declaring that it was not proper to confer "Victoria Cross" on the sepoys. The great British generals spoke empty words commending the action of our sepoys, but failed to honour them with the Victoria Cross Order.

FIFTHLY, he (Lord George) moved the Parliament to raise the salaries of the British soldiers and officers in India, and said that Indians should contribute the requisite funds. We are afraid that a fresh tax may be imposed to raise the amount required.

When a sovereign employs a minister, it is incumbent on the minister to always favour the cause of his master. While so, it is a wonder of wonders that the Minister of India should plead against the interests of India.

69. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 21st March, thinks that the recent plague riotsin Bombay were chiefly due to the employment of European soldiers in search duty, but blames the rioters for taking the law into their own hands instead of using constitutional means for obtaining redress of their grievances, especially after a deputation which had been sent had received a favourable reply from His Excellency the Governor.

The Bombay riots.

70. The MYSORE VRITTANTA BODHINI, of the 19th March, says in its English article:-It is to be devoutly hoped that the most severe retributive measures will be adopted to punish this EMEUTE, which has been attended with such envenomed ferocity and hatred of the ruling race. Otherwise the prestige of the administration is likely to suffer severely. Leniency would be a mistake and would be misunderstood as a sign of weakness. It is utter nonsense to advocate a regard for the susceptibilities of sanguinary ruffians who put Europeans to death in the public streets with every circumstance of revolting and barbarous cruelty. Above all, it is to be trusted that the authorities will not relax their plague preventive measures in the slightest ~~degree~~

Suggestions for dealing with the rioters in Bombay.

728

degree; it would certainly be regarded as yielding to intimidation; one reform, however, in the matter of plague routine is emergently called for: the military should completely withdrawn from all participation in plague duties. The soldier is not a PERSONA GRATA with the people and to this extent their prejudices might be consulted, particularly as there is no real necessity for the employment of the militry. The greatest feature of these riots is the feroeious hatred displayed towards the members of the ruling race, and there can be little doubt that disaffection is more general and intense than we imagined a few weeks ago.

Remarks on the Bombay riot.

74. A leader in the KERALA PATRIKA, of the 19th March, referring to the recent Bombay riot, says that it is a matter for profound regret that such riots occur at this time when the Government is labouring under a misapprehension as regards the Indians. The article while commenting upon the riot as well as the strike, gives a short account of both and remarks that the employment of Europeans for plague inspection in the city and the stringency of theplague regulations are the direct causes of the riot and the strike. It is for the welfare and safety of the people that plague examinations are conducted and, to be repugnant to the feeling of the people, the Government should use their discretion and stop them immediately. Although the intentiom of Government is good, yet it is plain from such riots that the action of those who conduct the plague operations has become oppressive to the people. The riot in which the Hindus and Muhammadans joined together while Mr.Tilak and Natu brohters are still in jail is a clear proof that the public are quite dissatisfied with the conduct of the search party. Even without the writings of Mr.Tilak, the abetment of Natu brothers or the publication of articles in the newspapers which are regarded by Government as seditious, the plague regulations and the conduct of the persons who carry them out are said to be sufficient to cause riots. European soldiers were not employed on plague duty in the city of

∴ regulations are framed for that purpose but when such measures are found

729

Bombay last year and there were therefore no riots. Under the circumstances, what could possibly the cause of these riots? Even this remark of ours may be taken as seditious, but our conscience does not permit us to hide the truth at the present moment when the feelings of the people are strong. We feel therefore bound to say thus much. If the Bombay Government had deeply considered the matter beforehand, they could have averted these unpleasant consequences.

Remarks on the Indian budget.

75. A leader in the KERALA PATRIKA, of the 26th March, while reviewing the Indian budget, for 1898-99, remarks that in the budget for 1898-99 it is shown that more than five crores of rupees have been spent in excess of the budget provision for 1897-98, and it is due to the expenses incurred in the connection with the frontier expedition and the famine. Sir James Westland, the Finance Minister of the Government of India, says that if there were no famine the expenses of the frontier war could have been met from the general revenues and a small surplus shown. What one ought to presume from this is that the frontier war is still, in the opinion of the Government of India, a matter of absolute necessity but the public think otherwise. India has not benefited or will hereafter benefit by these frontier wars, and so there is no doubt that the expenses which were now incurred were mainly brought about by the carelessness of the India Government. Famine is in most cases caused by the failure of the monsoons, and if the administrators, had been alive to this fact and made provision for the contingency there would not have been such a large deficit in the budget. When one considers that useless and expensive expeditions are undertaken without concerting measures for relief at the time when there is every indication of famine all over the country, one is apt to doubt whether it is not for causing famine that the governing authorities are working. The article is glad to notice that the Government of India are trying their best to improve their finance, but it strongly deprecates the raising of Indian loans in the English money market and the paying of interest in gold

730

at a high rate of exchange. It is of opinion that if such loans are raised in India the loss by exchange could be avoided.

For the Fortnight ending the 15th April 1898.

No. 7 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(k) General.

27. The VRITTANTA PATRIKA, of the 7th April, commenting on the last Indian budget, remarks that the statement presented by Sir. J.Westland shows that the finances of India are not in suh a hopeless condition as they were represented to bein some quarters and that had it not been for the famine there woudd have been no deficit. The paper thinks that the Government of India was wise in not appealing to the British Government for financial aid, because if India should depend on her own resources to meet all ordinary and extraordinary expenditure she will gain considerably in strength and courage and sense of security. Famines cannot be avoided but wars can be, and therefore the Government ought to be very careful not to enter into wars. India's credit may still be said to be good, but she wants an administrator who will keep the expenditure within due bounds, and not raise loans every year which will ultimately end in financial ruin to the country.

The British Indian Budget.

29, The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 11th April, says that the excuse put forward for the amendment of the law of sedition in India was that there is sedition in the country; but the real reason was that the officials do not like that their conduct should be criticised by the press. Officialdom believes itself perfect and resents being told it is not. But what will be the effect of the gagging Act? It will prevent in many cases honest criticism and the newspapers will become useless as far as the people and their good are concerned. If the press, for instance, had not strongly criticised

The real reason why the press in India has been deprived of its liberty.

731

the frontier policy and denounced the wars, that policy would never have been changed. It was to the press that Bombay owes the change in the plague regulations. The Government instead of being thankful that these ciriticisms were made, has gagged the press for making them, so that in future it cannot point out acts of injustice, however gross they may be.

30. The MUKHBIR-I-DAKHAN, of the 31st March, under the heading "Government has at least become compassionate" writes thus:--India has of late been engulfed in serious troubles and mishaps. Itis known from the official report that nearly 70,000 lives have been lost by the plague in the Bombay Presidency alone. It is notknown how many women have become widows, and how many children have become orphans. The recrudescenee of plague in India has brought with it a great change. The Government had begun to look upon its subjects with contempt, and the subjects had in turn become evilly disposed. Government, with a view to stamp out the malady, has adopted measures which, instead of doing good, produced injurious results. The people composed of different nationalities and creeds began to put various interpretations upon these measures. Some supposed that they have been introduced into the country wound the religious susceptibilities of the people. Government has not been wise in appointing soldiers (having no knowledge of Oriental etiquette) to search the houses of the natives amongst whom the gosha system is strictly observed. Government has at last, according to the saying "Better late than never," amended the epidemic regulations to the satisfaction of the millions of its subjects. Had it done this at the very beginning, matters would not have assumed such serious aspects.

The plague.

732

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

Remarks on the explanation of the Secretary of State regarding the detention in jail of Natu brothers.

34. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 17th March, referring to the several reasons adduced by the Secretary of State in regard to the imprisonment of Nattu brothers, remarks that the Secretary of State has been prejudiced and misled by the Bombay Government, that it does not become Her Majesty's Ministers to resort to time-serving explanations, that it is unjust on the part of the Bombay Government to have kept the Nattu brothers in custody on goundless charges in spite of the fact that even the British public view the explanations of the Secretary of State with disfavour, and thatxx the heartburning of thepeople of Poona will continue unabated so long as the Nattu brothers are detained x in jail, without being given the benefit of a fair trial.

Why should India bear the xxxx military expenses of of a foreign war?

36. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 22nd March, regrets to observe that the Secretary of State has directed the march of some troops from India to Mombassa in Africa, and ordered that India alone should defray the expenses of maintaining that army. The paper asks: Does it stand to reason that India should be saddled withx the military expenses of war conducted in America, China, Japan and in any other place in the world? What doubt is there that the Government of India will become insolvent if such a state of things is allowed to continue?

Reflections on the policy of the British administration

38. The AGNIKULADITTAN, of the 9th April, writes as follows:- Our British rulers are a sympathetic nation. To govern a country in conformity with thewishes of its subjects is their sovereign virtue. The British Government has given us an education which enables us to understand aright such a policy on the part of our rulers. When the congress was organised in view to represent to Government the grievances of the subjects, measures were adopted to xp create feelings of enmity between

733

the Hindus and Muhammadans in order to thwart its designs, which resulted in riots between the Hindus and Muhammadans. It is a pity thatx the efforts of the Europeans in this direction were not crowned with success; for Government had to lose all the confidence it had in the Muhammadans since the riots in Bombay and Calcutta. Thereupon, Government thought of cowing down the Hindus by stationing military force on all sides. As it is impossible to govern the teeming millions of this country merely with the strength of military force, it is highly desirable that Government should rule over this country by securing the co-operation and good-will of its people. The Englishmen in England and even the Members of Parliament have understood this secret which is ignored by some officers in this country.

For the Fortnight ending the 30th April, 1898.

No. 8 of 1898.

I. FOREIGN POLITICS.

Our frontier complications Russia the disturbing factor.

4. The MYSORE VRITTANTA BODHINI, of the 30th April, has the following:-"During the last twenty-five years, five out of six Viceroys, beginning with Lord North-brook, whatever their political opinions, were unanimous as to the wisdom of our having control over the Gilgit frontier, and four of them considered it necessary to extend that control to Chitral. Yet in the face of such a consensus of opinion on the part of those who have the best means of judging, people comparatively ignorant of the subject raise an outcry against our remaining in Chitral. In Lord Roberts' opinion, it is imperative on us to hold that northernmost corner of the great natural frontier of India, for notwithstanding that he considersx the chance of a successful attack on India from that direction infinitesimal, the danger of allowing even two or three thousand Cossacks to cross either the Kilik, Dorah or Baroghil Pass would be great, for the report of their presence in Chitral woudd cause a vast amount of excitement and alarm in Cashmere and the Punjab and would

734

haee a most disturbing effect on the restless and warlike races along the border. It is sometimes urged as a reason and warlike against our acquiring control over the inhabitants in the central part of the fronitier that they are more difficult to deal with than the people of Beluchistan. Belchis, no doubt, are less gixxxxtxxpxixx fanatical than Pathans, but they are just as warlike, and were just as much given to pillaging and murdering as their more northern neighbours; moreover, a great number of the inhabitants of Beluchistan are Pathans, while in Gilgit and Chitral the characteristies of the people are infinitely more Pathan than Beluch. The truth, is that Pathans, robbers and murderers though they may be, are gallant fellows, and like Orientals everywhere are responsive to vigorous and sympathetic treatment, as we have learned by experience of those who serve in our ranks. If our military operation are followed up by an administrator of the Sandeman stamp being placed in political charge of the frontier tribes; by the occupation of some commanding position in Afridi land which will ensure our having the control of the Khyber Pass, and will form a much-needed sanitarium for the fever-stricken garrisons in the Peshawar valley; by giving the tribesmen employment on such roads and railways as may be needed for our requirements; and if we make our influence feltin establishing law and order, without interfering with their habits, customs or relgion, the Afridis, and in time, the rest of the border tribes, will settle down and become, not only peaceful neighbours, but as brave and loyal soldiers in our service as the Sikhs, Gurkhs and other warlike races who haee fought against as have proved themselves to be."

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a) Police

Atrocities committed by Mappila robbers in Palghat with the connivance of the local police.

12. A leader in the MANORAMA, of the 18th April, says that, owing to highway robberies which are being committed, in broad

735

daylight, by certain Mappilas and others in several localities within a radius of eight miles from the Palghat town, it has become difficult for people to pass those places with articles of value in their possession. The article gives some instances in which robbery of a daring nature was committed. The women, wholive by pounding and seling rice in the Palghat, market are the chief sufferers. It appears that such women on their way to the market for the disposal of their rice are not only robbed of their goods and sale-proceeds, but are also outraged. Recently a woman offered resistance to an attempt to ravish her and had her breast cut off. These atrocities are said to be committed within two or three miles of the Town Police station, and the popular report is that the local police are hand-and-glove with the robbers and receive a share of the booty.

(k) General.

42. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 18th April, in a leading article remarks as follows:--The doings of the Government have caused dissatisfaction allround, and such a condition of things is said to contemplate. We may mention a few of the acts of the rulers that have tended to estrange the people, more especially the educated people. The plague regulations set the masses against the Government of Bombay and the murders of last June were the result. But the Government of Bombay was not satisfied with capturing the supposed murderer. They deported the two- Nattu brothers from Poona without bringing them to trial or divulging why they were deported. They were taken away from their homes just in the same way that the Russian political prisoners are sent to Siberia, and though a petition has been sent for their release the Government will not grant the prayer of the petitioners. But the rulers did not stop here. They determined to bring the press under the gag, by extending section 124-A, not because it was seditious but because it criticised

The late changes in the law of sedition.

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736

the doings of those in authority. Evem this was not considered sufficient. They made changes in Criminal Procedure Code also which are calculated to give further dissatisfaction. The way the laws have been changed is calculated to make criminals rather than cure crime, and this the Government will be sure to discover before very long. It appears as if the authorities were desirous of driving the people away from them rather than to draw them nearer. This is entirely a great mistake, which they may at any time discover to their cost. ~~Thisxxis~~ They are going in a mad course at present. It is not laws that are required but good government and a lightening of taxation. We would advise them to try their hand in this direction and the result would be far more satisfactory than at present.

III. LEGISLATION.

Reflections on the Billsx to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Indian Criminal Procedure Code.

48. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 9th April, observes as follows:-It is to be regretted that the Bills amending the Indian Penal Code and the Indian Criminal Procedure Code recently passed into Acts had not been translated and published for general information in pursuance of the rule passed by Lord Ripon that all Bills should have been translated into the several vernaculars and published for the information of the people before they are brought before the Legislative Council for consideration. European Government officials were not therefore justified in replying to the native members of the Legislative Council who opposed the measure that the people had not protested against the passing of the Bills under reference. Was it not enough that the native press and the native members of the Legislative Council opposed the Bills? Are not these members the representatives of the peopxle at large? The Government of India has passed the Bills in question into Acts taking unfair advantage of the powers vested in them. This law is always a national calamity to the Hindus and a stain on the British rule.

737

50. The SASILEKHA, of the 19th April, speaking of the Madras Tenancy Bill, points out the respective advantages to the landlords and tenants, but akes exception to the provision which empowers the tenants to appeal to the Collector when the rent assessed is alleged to be high. It also remarks that the Government frequently interferes with the "settlement," and raises the land-tax and water-cess, and that the prayers of the ryots are unheeded by it. It is surprising to note, it says, that the system of procedure in the matter of collection of assessment which the Government has prescribed for proprietors is different from what it adopts for itself. The paper, therefore advises the zemindars of the presidecy to meet together and represent their objections to the Bill to the Government, and suggests that the Honourable the Raja of Bobbili must get himself well acquainted with these matters and fight out the cause of the proprietors in the Council, representing as he does the landholders in the presidency.

The Madras Tenancy Bill.

For the Fortnight ending the 15th May 1898.

No. 9 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(k) General.

36. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 25th April, hears that the sub-registrar of Negapatam

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36. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 5th May, referring to the Calcutta plague riots which, the paper remarks, occurred in spite of the encouraging words on the part of Government that the measured enforced in Bombay would not be adopted in Calcutta, gives out the following as the causes which create difficulties in the way of satisfying the people:-

Reflections on the Calcutta plague riots.

(1) Government neither knows nor has theopportunity to know who the men of influence are that can mediate between the State and the people.

738

(2) Government discourages the press which can co-operate with the State in times of crisis.

The paper concludes with observation that Government can hope to secure the good-will of the people only by promoting the interest of the press, that it is highly desirable that the newspapers should be exempted from postage and that the press should be encouraged by all possible means.]

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

The necessity for an early release of the imprisoned Natus.

48. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 2nd May, says that it having been proved beyond doubt that there was no widespread conspiracy which led to the Poona murders, it is only right that those sent to prison last year should now be set at liberty. What was wrongly done should be undone at once. The Government of Bombay should not be ashamed to do what is right. Otherwise it would be obstinacy and deserve reprobation. There would be no loss of dignity to the authorities of the Westrern Presidency if they were to let the men free.

For the Fortnight ending the 31st May 1898.

No. 10 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(f) Land Revenue and Settlement.

Casue of famine in India-

23. The AGNIKULATHITHAN, of the 14th May, asserts that the absence of a permanent settlement in India is the main cause of the periodical outbreak of famine which has been subjecting the people of this country to great hardship once in twenty years since the year 1857, and remarks that it is highly expe-dient on the part of Government to introduce the permanent settlement system in India in the interest of the agricultural classes.

735

(k) General.

38. A leader in the KERALA PATRIKA, of the 14th May, while rejoicing at the release of the Natu brothers, complains about the restriction that they should not leave Belgaum without the permission of the Bombay Government. They have been found to have had no hand in the recent riots, and the article expresses the hope that the said restriction will soon be removed.

The restriction that the Natu brothers should not leave Belgaum without the permission of the Bombay Government, to be removed.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

52. The swadesamitran, of the 12th May, rejoices to remark that even persons who have not had thebenefit of English education volunteer their services as the members of the Mahajana Sabha, and wishes that the Muhammadans of Nagore, Negapatam and Adirampatam should also be made members and that their joint efforts should be directed in making the ensuing congress a perfect success. The paper regards the admission of persons who are not acquainted with the English language to take part in the deliberations of the congress as a special feature of the congress of this year. The paper hopes that the congress will spare no pains to have Regulation No.25 of 1827 repealed as the people are not likely to enjoy peace of mind so long as such xxxxxx a Regulation is in force.

A special feature of the congress of this year.

55. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 16th May, says:-The Government of Madras is anxious to have the Madras Tenancy Bill passed as soon as possible and for this purpose a meeting of the Legislative, council was called and, to induce the non-official members to attend the meeting at Ooty, each of them is offered a sum of Rs.600 as bata. This is unnecessary expense incurred owing to Government having gone to the hills. More meetings will be held in the same place in connection with the Bill, and non-official members will not be

The Madras Tenancy Bill and the exodus of Government to the hills.

7110

able to attend them, and the Bill will become law without any discussion of its provisions. This, however, is not the only evil resulting from the migration of Government. Official business is considerably delayed because the records to which references are necessary are all in the capital and it takes several days before they can be called up and the work disposed of, Moreover, a great part of the officials' time is given to play and society in such a delightful place where all the rich and gay congregate. The expenses of the journey to and fro and the hill allowance paid to clerks and peons amount to a very large sum, which the country can ill afford to pay at this time of financial pressure.

Improvement in the financial condition of India how to be effected.

56. The KARNATAKA PARKASIKA, of the 23rd May, thinks that a mere change in the currency of of India will not improve the financial condition of India, but that there should be a considerable reduction of expenditure in all directions beginning from the very top. The offices with the highest salaries must be taken in hand first. It is not use cutting down the pay of a few poorly-paid men near the bottom of the official ladder, as very little saving can be effected thereby, while great misery may be caused. There must be more industries established in the land with capital raised in the country itself.

For the Fortnight ending the 15th June 1898.

No. 11 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(g) Forests.

Inadvisability of levying a tax for allowing cattle to graze in forests.

21. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 7th June, referring to the tax imposed on the ryots for their allowing cattle to graze in forests, writes as follows:-

The duty of the officers of the Forest department should be to maintain forests for the welfare of the people and not to levy

741

money to the vexation and ruin of the ryots even for allowing their cattle to graze in them. If their cattle are deprived of the due quantity of fodder required for their nourishment, agriculture must necessarily suffer. The poor agriculturists will be highly grateful to Government if it be pleased to adopt the necessary measures in view to promote their interest, instead of being misled by the advice of some Government officials whose sole object is self-aggrandizement.

(k) General.

Indian military expenditure. How the revenues of India may be improved.

33. The MYSORE VRITTANTA BODHINI, ofthe 4th June, in a leading article headed "Indian Military Expenditure" regrets the decision of the Ministry not to make any grant towards the expenses of the frontier wars, in violation of the promise which the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had made, and remarks as follows:- The disappointment caused by this withholding of the grant has created an impression abroad that the Government is becoming hard and unsympathetic. India has had such an exceptional and unhappy year that a voluntary contribution from England would have been a graceful mark of sympathy at this time of acute strain and distress, and would have produced the happiest resulst politically. There is more reason for a home grant because it was a Secretary of State for India that ruined one of the most hopeful efforts to ameliorate the condition of the ryots. When Lord Mayo drew up a scheme for the agricultural improvement of the country, the Secretary of State frustrated the project by ruling that revenue, and not agriculture, should be the main object of the new department, and he directed that the head of it must be chosen for his knowledge of revenue and not agricultural matters. Ever since then the Agiruclture department has been starved. It is the more necessary, therefore, to obtain help from other quarters. Land Settlement, Land ~~Kxxxxxxxxx~~ Records, and Agriculture should no longer be combined. The Director-General of Agriculture

should be a Member of the Viceroy's Council. Each province should have a Provincila Director. The first duty should be a careful agricultural survey of the country to see what is good in native methods and what improvements might be introduced. Former attempts largely failed for want of this preliminary inquiry. There should be a similar organisation of a Department of Manufacture and Commerce. Technical colleges, industrial and commercial schools should receive attention. By the judicious rules drawn up by Mr.Nicholson, the ryots might be feed from the meshes of the money-lenders, while an effort was made to promote habits of thrift. The establishment of a special department for advance to ryots, on the lines which prevailed under Hindu and Muhammadan Governments, is desirable. An Emigration department should be organised. A sum of two millions sterling if granted by England would enable a good commencement to be made, and before it was expended the regular revenue would enable the work to be continued.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

44. The VIKATA DUTAN, of the 4th June, writes as follows:-

Indifference of the authorities to the mischiefs caused to the people by the British soldiers.

Highhandedness and mischiefs on the part of the British soldiers in India are ever on the increase, and there is nothing to indicate that the authorities bestow due attention on the subject and adopt remedial measures. When a question was raised in the Parliament some days ago in respect of the case of a gunner who had shot a native in Northern India, the Secretary of State spoke in such a manner as to make it appear that the question should be dropped altogether The more such subjects are hushed up the greater is the mischief on the part of the British ~~rulers.~~ soldiers. The fact that a ~~xx~~couple ~~ofxdayx~~ of weeks ago two soldiers killed a hospital assistant at Calcutta while he was dressing their wounds is still fresh in the memory of the people. On Saturday last two soldiers in Kasal assaulted the cart-drivers who were taking some

763

barrels of wisky in their cart when they refused to funnish the soldiers with whisky on demand, and took to their heels throwing the cart, the drivers and the bullocks together with the barrels in a large pit. It was reported that on the same day two soldiers of the 16th Lancers assaulted a native and walked away with Rs.200 and some silver bullions which he was carrying from the treasury at Umballa. Rumour has it that soldiers' pelt stones at the carriages mand harass the passers-by along the Fort St. George. It is expedient that the authorities should award such soldiers exemplary punishment rather than enable them to escape under some pretext or other.

Who are the natural leaders of the people?

47. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 6th June, commenting on the suggestion of the HINDU PATRIOT that in order to prevent popular riots in India more power should be given to the Zamindars says that the zamindars of the present day can by no means be regarded as the leaders of the people. By their neglect of their people, their dissipation and extravagance, and ignorance they have lost all respect which they might have commanded, and it would now be really disastrous to give them more power in the hope that they would exercise that power for the good of the peace of the country.

For the Fortnight ending the 30th June 1898.

No. 12 of 1898.

I. FOREIGN POLITICS.

Russian invasion on India

4. The SHAMS-UL-AKBAR, of the 27th June, mentions that its contemporary the HINDU of Madras inserts a speech recently delivered by a German officer am a named Colonel von Pemberston, in which it is said that should Russia invade India, the Afghans, numbering about 40 lakhs, would possibly side with her if another mutiny in this country and that the Muhammadans of India, who are disaffected and who have become daring in consequence of the recent Turkish victories over the Greeks, would

744

probably declare a religious war against the British Government. The SHAMS observes that its contemporary inserted the above without criticism with a view to show its latent enmity against the Muhammadans. It is absurd to think that the Amir, who receives crores of rupees annually, will side with Russia, or that there will be another mutiny in India, while many regular troops are guarding it, or that the Muhammadans are disaffected when they enjoy such peace and happiness under the British Government as they have not been under any other rulers. The ~~British Government as they~~ SHAMS concludes with the remarks that their keeping aloof from the congress is sufficient proof of the faithfulness of the Muhammadans.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(g) Local and Municipal.

Certain suggestions regarding the qualifications of municipal voters.

24. The SAJJANA PATRIKA, of the 28th June, stronlgy objects to the new rule that permits women also to vote at the time of the election of a municipal councillor, on the ground that Hindu women are on the whole still wanting in educational qualifications and judgment which are absolutely necessary for the exercise of the privilege of voting. The paper does not approve of the new rule which authorises the privilege of a voter, inasmuch as many a poor and ignorant person would come forward to vote, and thinks that considerable annoyance and fraud would be the consequence, and suggests the desirability of conferring the privilege of voting on those who pay not less than rupees eight as professional tax, and not less than rupees seven per month in the shape of house rent, in view to prevent the people of lower orders from exercising such an important privilege as that of voting.

745

(g) Forests.

28. The SASILEKHA, of the 21st June, regrets that the conservation of forests, though intended for the benefit of the ryots, has become one of the many causes of their impoverishment. It remarks that thelevying of fees for grazing cattle in forest reserves is felt to be a grievance. For, these reserves are so near as to surround the villages close on the borders with no intervening ground for cattle to graze on and, when the cattle stray into the reserves, they are thrown into the pounds and kept there until certain fees are paid by the owners. Ninety-five per cent. of the ryots in this country being too poor to pay grazing fees, they are obliged to keep and feed their cattle at home, which consequently grow lean and unhealthy for want of sufficient exercise and fodder. The ryots are further prohibited from cutting firewood and gathering wild fruits and leaves in reserved forests. The Government is frequently misled by the district officers with their plausible arguments, in spite of its determination not to interfere with the rights of the villagers. Noting that within the last five years the Government revenues from grazing fees have increased from Rs.1,05,000 to Rs. 3,40,500, the paper remarks that the ryots have become proportionately poor. It adds that the administration of forests should only be to conserve them, and not to obtain money by making the ryots suffer. Government servants employed in the Forest department seek to obtain promotion and titles by showing an increase in the revenues. But the Government should be cautious not to be misguided by them, but to safeguard the interests of the ryots.

Forest administration.

(k) General.

36. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 14th June, speaks of the high-handedness of the Anglo-Indian papers as follows:--We are sorry to hear that the ENGLISHMAN and

Reflections on the attitude of the Anglo-Indian papers towards the native press.

766

the CAPTTAL, which are Anglo-Indian papers published in Calcutta, have induced Government to bring the AMRITA BAZAAR PATRIKA into trouble and behave in such a manner as to make it appear that either Government is partial to them or the new Act--the law of sedition--does not apply to them as well. We wonder at the stroy regarding the interview of His Excellency the Viceroy with the YOGI near the Himalayas trumped up by the ENGLISHMAN in respect of the origin of the bubonic plague. Even granting for sake of argument that such a stroy finds credence among the masses, is it logical to infer therefrom that the knowledge imparted to the Hindus by the British Government all along has been of no avail? All that we can infer from the story in question is that the British Government has yet to do, in the matter of education, a great deal more than what it has already done. We may even proceed so far as to say that the the indifference on the part of Government in educating and civilizing the masses is a sinful act. It is a thousand pities that the vernacular papers, which are the only means of educating the masses in these days when the schools already in existence are abolished and thoseof indegenous growth are not aided with liberal grant, are discouraged. If Government really wishes that the ignorance of the masses should be dispelled it should, as we remarked on a previous occasion, encourage the native newspapers in all possible ways--particularly by reducing their postal charges. It is only then that Government will acquire sufficient stability. The statement that native newspapers are mischief-makers is a groundless denunciation and is not worthy of belief.

III. LEGISLATION.

Remarks on the Madras Tenancy Bill being referred to a Select Committee consisting of official members only.

52. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 23rd June, ~~thinks~~ observes as follows:--The Madras Tenancy Bill has been referred for opinion to the Hon'ble Messrs. Bliss, Arundel, Crole and Forbes, who are all official members. How can the report submitted by these gentlemen be conducive to

747

the good of the tenants and the zamindars? If a law is to be made as dictated by these gentlemen, why should Government take the trouble to bring the subject before the Legislative Council? We never dreamt that matters would take such a turn during the REGIME of His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock. Even Sir Grant Duff would not have ventured to do such things. What an evil time is this! Alas! this state of things if unprecedented in the history of the Legislative Concil! Cannot the official members of the Legislative Council come down to Madras to enable the four non-official native members who cannot afford to stay at Ootacamund to help them in their deliberations? It is necessary that we should telegraph to the British public each and every irregularity the Madras Government is guilty of, inasmuch as the Bill will cut short the rights and privileges of the zemindars. It is a pity that God has not blessed the zemindars with moral courage and patriotism while He has showered on them riches.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

62. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 11th June, observes as follows:-

Reflections on the contemplated loan for the benefit of India.

We regret to hear that the House of Commons has sanctioned the grant of a loan of 100 millions of pounds at the instance of the Financial Member of the Government of India, with the avowed object of enabling the Government of India to liquidate the debt already contracted, to open additional railways in India and to have in reserve a certain sum for the purpose of meeting emergent expenses. It is indeed very strange note that the Financial Member, who six months ago spoke with vehemence on the prossperity of India and asserted that there was no necessity for England to help India with loan, should speak now in a different strain. Had money been spent more economically in respect of the Frontier wars there would not have been this necessity of borrowing 100 millions of pounds on this occasion. The more Government borrows the greater

7118

is the suffering on the part of the people. Government has levied ever so many new taxes and raised the old ines, has had no time to adopt the necessary measures to a redress the grievances of its subjects, and has reduced to a considerable extent the sums used to be spent on the spread of education and sanitary reforms. It is a pity that in spite of such a disagreeable state of things Lord George Hamilton and Sir Henry Foxwler are of opinion that a time of prosperity for India has set in. It is to be regretted that, since the acquisition of Burma, Government has enhanced the tax on salt, kerosine-oil and peice-goods, and that it has raised land-tax to the extent of five crores within a space of twenty years. No one who has correctly understood the real condition of India can agree with Lord George Hamilton in his opinion about the condition of this country. That a portion of the amount to be borrowed will be x utilised in the extension of railways is certain. We earnestly hope that the amount intended to be utilised in that direction will be spent in the improvement of canals, tanks rivers and wells, which would be of substantial help to the ryots, who form the bulk of thepopulation of this country, and at the same time a timely relief to the poor labourers.

"The Government of India borrowing."

64. The SASILEKHA, of the 21st June, notes that the Secretary of State for India has obtained the sanction of Parliament for raising, on behalf of the India Government, a loan of one crore (ten millions) of pounds sterling. The discharge of certain standing debts shortly to fall due, the extension of railways and theholding of a reserve fund against contingencies, were stated to be the threefold object of this enormous loan. In moving for the loan, Lord George Hamilton said in the Parliament and he was supported by SirHenry Fowler--that the present condition of India was prosperous, owing to the favourable rate of exchange and increased revenue collections. On another occasion, notes the paper, Lord George represented that India had boundless wealth and that there was no necessity for a subsidy

749

which Parliament was prepared to vote for India. But he now says that certain old debts have to be discharged by contracting a new one. Lord George Hamilton is thus constantly at variance with himself on Indian affairs in Parliament. How could a man be said to be rich, asks the paper, if he had to contract new debts to pay off old ones. If the Indian minister had accepted the Parliamentary grant three months ago, there would have been no necessity now for raising this loan. It observes that the Government of India has been carrying on the administration with borrowed money only and that it has been unable for want of funds to carry out measures for the benefit of schools, and public works, and forthe improvement of ~~xatisfaction~~ sanitation. It regrets that it has been a rgular programe with the Govennment to plead poverty when works of public utility have to be undertaken, to waste millions of money on useless and unnecessary wars, and thereupon to raise enormous loans in England. Various kinds of taxes have been imposed ~~in~~ within the last 15 years, but they have ~~xxx~~ in no way been conducive to the welfare of the people. The taxes levied, says the paper, on the very necessaries of human existence, salt, xotton goods and kerosine oil for instance, are wasted on wars waged in hills and dens. The condition of the country being such, it prays that a portion at least of the ten million pounds now to be borrowed might be utilised for works calculated to promote the welfare of the people of India.

For the Fortnight ending the 15th July 1898.

No. 13 of 1898.

I. FOREIGN POLITICS.

The probabilities of a Russian invasion of India.

2. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 11th July, says:-Herat is thekey to India, and the English seeing its importance made war with the Amir twelve years ago and having exorted permission from him fortified the place after their own fashion, and since then have been making unwearied efforts to subdue the frontier tribes

750

in the hope of making Afghanistan instead of India the battle-field with the Russians. But they have not yet succeeded in making a ~~fx~~ safe passage through the mountainous country between India and Afghanistan, while the Russians have come/ break out between Russia and England, the Russians can easily take Herat, ~~kxxak~~ and it would be very difficult to dislodge them fromit. The Russian influence is increasing in Persia, and should they succeed in getting a seaport in that country, their power would become irresistible. Their recent acquisitions in China have made the English beg for more territory from the Chinese Government for the safety of Hongkong. France, Germany and Russia are all looking for an opportunity to grapple with the English for the possession of their Eastern dominion.

dangerously close to Herat. If for some cause or other hostilities should

The frontier war and the Indian troops.

5. The MUKHBIR-I-DAKHAN, of the 7th July, mentions that though many thousands of rupees have been spent and many valuable lives lost in the late frontier war, yet the people of India have gained ~~a~~many advantages thereby. The Tirah campaign has proved to the British Government ~~xxxxx~~ that if the Indian sepoys are not superior in bravery to the British soldiers, ~~that-if-the Indianxx~~ they are not inferior in this respect, and that they are ~~xxx~~ not only brave but also faithful. These facts have raised them in the estimation of the people of England; who are now beginning to think about sending the Indian sepoys on an expedition to Africa, and also to China for garrisoning Wai-hai-wai. A fund, called the Indian Heroes' Fund, has already been established for the benefit of the families of those sepoys who were killed on the ~~xxxxxxx~~ frontier.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

The intrigues of Anglo-Indian journalists.

46. The SASILEKHA, of the 1st July, writes thus:--Anglo-Indian journalists are unreasonably charging the Native journalists of Northern India with sedition and are eagerly proposing their prosecution. It is at the instance of the Bombay TIMES OF INDIA

751

a year ago that Mr.Tilak was placed in this plight. Now the Calcutta paper, the ENGLISHMAN, is complaining against the AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, while the Allahabad PIONEER charges the GUJARAT with sedition; they demand their prosecution. After all, this kind of writing has become the livelihood of the English journalists. They want to feather their fortunes by doing evil to the Native journalists.

For the Fortnight ending the 31st July, 1898.

No. 14 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION

(b) Courts.

The Barrackpore murder case.

12. The SASILEKHA, of the 22nd July, referring to the Barrackpore murder case, observes that in this country frequent reports of murders by Englishmen are heard of. It is also a well-known fact that the Judges are not able to punish them as English juries on some plea or other do not find them guilty. Under these circumstances it should be considered that the proceedings in the said murder, case had a satisfactory termination. In this case three soldiers were charged with the murder of Dr.Sircar. The Chief Justice of the Calcutta High, Court, Sir Francis Maclean, assisted by nine jurymen, patiently tried the case. As the jury found the soldiers guilty of only causing grievous hurt and not of murder, the Judge was obliged to agree with them. However he sentenced the soldiers to seven Years' rigorous imprisonment, the highest penalty prescribed in the Indian Penal Code for grievous hurt. This decision of the Judge hasto a certain extent tended to remove the reproach attaching to the Courts of Justice. Thepaper regrets to note that the jury was kind to the soldiers, their countrymen, but it never pitied Dr.Sircar, an innocent old man who was an honorary magistrate and the chairman of the Barackpore municipality But Sir Francis Maclean in explaining to the jury the facts of the case exhorted the jury to note that there was a widespread impression that the British jury does not find an Englishman

752

guilty, and also said that the life of the poorest Indian was as precious as the life of any Englishman in this country. It is this exhortation that led the jury to find the soldiers guilty at least of the minor charge. If there are many such upright Judges there would be no obloquy on the British justice. There would then be an increased appreciation of British rule and a closer union between the Englishmen and the Indians.

III. LEGISLATION.

The Madras Tenancy Bill
Ryots and tenants.

38. The MYSORE VRITTANTA BODHINI, of the 30th July, remarks as follows on the Madras Tenancy Bill:-The great anxiety of Government is to place ryots on propretary estates on the same footing as ryots in ryotwari tracts. The Bill introduces a body of rules and regulations which it will take a long time for proprietors and their tenants to reconcile andxthe themselves to. In the face of the divergent views expressed on the matter and the strong opposition and conflicting opinions evoked by an almost identical measure prepared by the xxxxxx committee appointed by Government in 1888, we cannot expect that this measure, whatever may be the care bestowed on it by the special officer deputed by Government, will be passed into law with any undue hurry. Notwithstanding all the correspondence x which had been going on for the past several years, nox attempt has been made to ascertain by actual inquiry the donditions of the Presidency calling for reform. It has been assumed that what is good for Bengal is good for Madras. The object of the Bill is to define the status of the ryot in proprietary tracts. But what is the status given him by the Bill? Apparently it is an occupancy right in the land held by him. A ryot is defined as a person who has acquired a right to hold land for the purpose of agriculture, horticulture or grazing. This is all that the Bill gives the ryot, notwithstanding the various proceedings recorded by Government and the Board of Revenue, de-

753

claring that the ryot in proprietary tracts held a status analogous to his neighbour in the ryotwari tracts, and that he was proprietor of the soil, The Bill therefore instead of improving the status of the zamindari ryot lowers it. The Bill confers on the ryot surface rights only and not any right to the minerals. It is faulty in its definition of the term ryot, describing him as holding land for purposes of agriculture, horiculture, or grazing, against all previous declarations of Government. In regard to the provisions regarding enhancement and reduction of rents, the substance of all the rules relating to this matter is that the Collector is to fix a fair and equitable rent. Except in cases when enhancement is claimed on the ground of increase of productive capacity of the soil by fluvial action, no limit is fixed, as in Government tracts, that the proprietor should not take more than one half of the net produce. Thejurisdiction given to the Revenue authorities is not satisfactory and there is no reason why the procedure laid down in the Rent Recovery Act should be altered. The Government of India lays down as a condition that non-occupancy rights should be declared non-transferable except with the consent of the proprietor, but it is absurd that the Government of India should impose conditions affecting the people of the Madras Presidency. The year 1871 is taken as the starting point for upsetting the relations and setting aside the practice that had come to exist between the proprietor and his tenants, during this period of more than a quarter of a century. The Bill affects interests vast, ancient and most vital. The discussion of the measure of such a magnitude should be free from prejudice, and the balance be held fairly between concerned.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

Remarks on the opinion of the Secretary of State about India

50. The SWADESAMITRAN? XXXXXXXXXX of the 23rd July, writes as follows:--It is to be regretted that the Secretary of State for India betrays ignorance of the real state of things whenever

754

he has to speak about India. His exaggerated account of the prosperous condition of this country is as ridiculous as the expression of a buffoon on the stage. His assertion that the natives of India are wanting in administrative skill and acumen to manage political affairs with success, and that the people living in the territories subject to native administration are in a wretched plight is a striking instance of his ignorance. It is surprising to note that the Secretary of State ignores the condition of pauperism to which the people of this country have been reduced in consequence of the British administration of the country during the past forty years and the indebtedness of the Government of India in spite of the boasted administrative skill on the part of the English. The Secretary of State would have heard of the rule of this country by 'Akbar', [and of his able ministers Todar Mall, and of such men as Nana Farnavis] 'Raja Chandu Lal,' 'Poorniah,' 'Raja Sir T.Madhava Rau,' and 'Sir Salar Jung' whose sagacity in politics contributed to the prosperity of this country to no small extent. The Government of Mysore was involved in debt to the extent of eighty lakhs of rupees as the result of its management by the British Government for the space of a century, whereas under the native rule the Government of Mysore during the past seventeen years liquidated the whole debt and brought about several changes for the better. It is a pity that in spite of such astounding facts the Secretary of State gives expression to such notions as make us feel sorry for his ignorance.

Poverty of India.

51. The SURYODAYA, of the 22nd July, has a leader to the following effect:--The politicians of India are crying themselves hoarse to bring to the notice of the people of England that India is suffering from poverty while the Anglo-Indians who govern India are trying as much to make it out that India is rolling in wealth. Some of the far-seeing friends of India asked the Ministry to appoint a Parliamentary committee to inquire into the condition of India, but the present Government is too powerful to listen to such a request. Nothing is as yet known as to the decision that the Royal Commission on Indian

755

expenditure appointed some time ago has come to. Somehow or other the people of Great Britain are keptin the dark as to the real state of this country.

We who are born here and obliged to live on insufficient food, and decimated by famine every two or three years, do not require any statesman to tell us that we are poor. How poor India is we know, because we can see the peopel starving when for awant of sufficient rain in any year the price of food rises ever so little.

What is the cause of this poverty? Our missionary friends say that it is due to increase of population and to reckless expenditure on marriage and other ceremonies of the Hindus and to the fondness of our women for ornaments. But let us see how far they are right.

In England the population has increased fourfold within the last few years but the people arenot poor for that reason. We never spend so much on marriage and other things as the Western people do. In fact we are a remarkably economical people, although we spend alittle more than usual on festive occasions. So this cannot be the cause of our poverty.

In every country women are fond of ornaments. Our women like to have silver and gold ornaments, but the women of the West spend their money on dress, which, of course, when once used becomes almost valueless when compared with silver and gold jewels.

There is no doubt that the people of the West spend more on ornamentation than the people of India.

Nor can expenditure on marriages be the cause of India's poverty. The rich and the poor here spend an amount on such ceremonies which is proportionate to their incomes. We therefore think that the causes of poverty must be sought for elsewhere.

To us it seems these causes are two, viz., the Mussalmans who conquered India settled here and gave the high appointments to the natives of India. But the English people look upon India merely as a field for acquiring the means for their happiness, and retain the highest appointments for themselves. They come

756

to India when they have amassed sufficient wealth or earned a comfortable pension go back to England and pose as authoritixes on Indian questions and abuse the land which gave them the wealth on which they fatten.

Another cause of the poverty of India is the maintenance of an army larger than her needs demand, to meet a possible Russian invasion. To maintain this useless army we are kept in a state of semi-starvation. The fear of a Russian invasion is put forward whenever the people are to be silenced like the "Goggaya" with which we frighten children whenever they are restive. Even supposing this fear of the Russians is a real fear, why should not native troops be employed? Did not the native regiments show as much bravery as, if not more than, the British troops inthe frontier wars? The employment of Indian soldiers would involve much less expenditure while the efficiency would not be less. But this is not done partly because our rulers have no confidence in us and partly because such a course would conflict with the interests of the ruling race.

Since such a vast army cannot be kept in idleness, opportunities are sought to give it work by picking quarrels with the neighbouring tribes. It is only this desire to give the idle army some work and to extend English dominions that Lord Dufferin conquered Burma and Manipur, and the recent war on the frontiers was undertaken. Notwithstanding the fact that the country is groaning under the burden of famine and pestilence, money is wrung from it and thrown on the barren hills on the Afghan frontier. The people of England would not pay a pie towards the expenses of these wars. Such is Christian charity! Our resources are thus wasted on unproductive enterprises without our consent, and yet the missionaries overlook these important causes of India's poverty and taunt us with the little expenses, which we occasionally incur for a little diversion from our sufferings.

52. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 25th July, has a leading

757

outrages on natives. article in which it remarks:- It is a matter of regret that of late there have been numerous attacks of natives by Europeans. So common have these become that we scarcely see a week pass without reading an account of one or mor in the newspapers. These outrages are no less than a scandal to the ruling race, and something should be doneto stop them.

The article then tries to assign reasons for the frequency of these outrages and says that they are due to the fact that in these days more Europeans come to India than was the case formerly; Europeans, too, who, unlike those who come to enter the service of Government permanently, have no interest in the country and in the people. There is more travelling among them now and they scarcely stick to one place and have no character to maintain among their neighbours, and are removed from the influence of their own countrymen. Most of the outrages are committed by soldiers who become lawless as soon as they out ot their barracks. Another cause of these outrages is, in the opinion of the editor, the light punishment dealt out to the offenders, if at all any punishment is inflicted. In many cases the offenders go scto-free, the Judges and juries thinking, or professing to think, they were not guilty.

For the Fortnight ending the 15th August 1898.

No. 15 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(k) General.

Indebtedness of India.

39. The ALHAMI, of the 31st July, has an extract from the PASIA AKBAR, of Lahore, to the effect that intebtedness of India has reached such an extent that a step further in this direction will reduce that country to bankruptcy. If the method of the present administration is not thoroughly amended, famine and frontier war will invariably recur every firth and second year respectively, necessitating the contraction of further loans. How long will bankers advance money and on what terms? If the increase in the national debt keeps on progressing in the

758

present rates, India will surely become unable to pay even the interest. The PASIA winds up the article with a remark that the idea of contracting loans should be given up and savings should be effected for liquidating the present debt. Otherwise the prestige of Government will suffer.

V. PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Certain suggestions to Government for alleviating the sufferings of the ryots.

48. The SOUTH INDIAN MITRAN, of the 5th August, comparing at length the present poor condition of the soil with its fertility in the past, observes that agriculture suffers in the main in consequence of the facts that in certain places only a limited quantity of water is allowed to flow into wet lands, that dry lands are irrigated at the expense of wet lands, that cattle become emanciated and die for want of sufficient fodder as they are not allowed to enter ~~xx~~ forests even inplaces where there are no grazing grounds, that manure has become very dear and costly owing to the severity of Forest laws, and that ryots, under the present system, find it very difficult to get loans under the Agircultturists' and Land Improvement Loans Acts. The paper requests Government to arrange for the better irrigation of wet lands, to allow in the forests certain grazing grounds for cattle, to permit the ryots to get leaves, etc., from the forests for purposes of manure, to adopt the necessary measures for breeding good oxen and to empower the village munsifs themselves to grant loans to the ryots in view to enable the latter to carry on their agricultural operations with success.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

Remarks on Lord George Hamilton

50. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 2nd August, observes as follows: It is an undoubted fact that the Hindus entertain a very low opinion of Lord Gexorge Hamilton, the Secretary of State for India, inasmuch as his attitude towards India and her children

759

is anything but satisfactory. It is to be regretted that he has done nothing to deserve the gratitude of the Hindus, and that he never forgets to eulogise the merits of the European members of the Indian Civil Service and to speak disparagingly of the Hindus whenever there is any opportunity for him to do so. Respectable men in England have begun to hate him in consequence of his having condemned Lord Ripon whose meritorious services to India are embalmed in the memory of the Hindus to this day. His statement that sedition has been thoroughly rooted out of India presupposes that the Hindus from the Himalayas to the Cape Comorin were disloyal and that he and the Government of India endeavoured to cause to disappear such a mischievous element. No character of its inhabitants can never be led to believe that the Hindus are disloyal. It is Sir George Hamilton that is answerable for any discontent on the part of the people of this country caused by the irregularities of the Government of India. In fine, the words and actions of the Secretary of State for India are unbecoming the dignity of the position he holds. In these circumstances, the people of this country are of opinion that a great blunder was committed in appointing Lord George Hamilton as Secretary of State for India in preference to a number of competent persons liked by the Hindus.

Work for the next meeting of the National Congress.

53. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 1st August, expresses satisfaction that Mr. A. M. Bose has been invited to preside at the next meeting of the National Congress and that the public of Madras have already commenced work in connection with the meeting. It then points out the various questions that are pressing on the attention of the people, which should be discussed at the coming congress meeting, and remarks thus--

(1) There is the frontier policy which brought about the war, and cost a large sum of money and many valuable lives and was quite uncalled for. The congress should insist upon a definite policy being laid down which the Government should be bound to follow.

760

(2) Then there is the currency question. The present haphazard way in which monetary matters are managed is a disgrace to the rulers and to the country.

(3) Then the plague regulations will have to be discussed. These have given much annoyance to the people.

(4) In the next place the restrictions put upon the press require to be considered, and the absurd meddling with the press should be rectified.

(5) Then as regards Madras Tenancy Bill, which in its present form does not seem to please the people, should be modified.

For the Fortnight ending the 31st August 1898.

No. 16 of 1898.

I. FOREIGN POLITICS.

The new Viceroy of India.

2. The MUKHBIR-I-DAKHAN, of the 18th August, in discussing at great length the appointment of Mr.Curzon, M.P., to the Viceroyalty of India, wirtes that it is evident from the new Viceroy's views expressed on different occasions that he is an advocate of the Forward Policy, but that in consideration of the present financial crisis in India, it is possible that he will give up that policy. It is hoped that he will act in such a way as to make himself popular and that he will look to the comfort of the poor Indian ryot.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(k) General.

36. The LOKOPAKARI, of the 21st August, writes as

Remarks relating to the Honourable Mr.Crole.

36. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 27th August, writes as follows:-

We regret to hear that the Hon'ble Mr.Crole is not to be appointed a Member of His Excellency's Council. This is indeed a very bad time for India. If the Hon'ble Mr.Crole be appointed a Councillor he would enter into the feelings of the people of this

761

country and conduct matters in such a way as to avoid all disturbance at a time like this when this Presidency is threatened with the plague, inasmuch as he has a peculiar love for the natives and is a friend of many of them. During the recent famine he spared no pains in making the best use of the money that had been sent from England for the relief of the distress and indoing the needful. It is to the misfortune of the people of this Presidency that such a gentleman as the Honourable Mr.Crole, who has been contemplating certain important reforxms, is not to be appointed xmxxmxx a Councillor. It is, however, hoped that the Honourable Mr.Anundel and Mr.Sturrock who is likely to succeed the Honourable Mr.Bliss will give His Excellency timely advice in the administration of this Presidency.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

52. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 27th August, writes as follows:-

Reflections on the Bubonic plague.

Whether the bubonic plague to which thousands of people have succumbed in India is altogether a new disease unknown to our ancestors or a disease known to them and handed down to us is a question of paramount importance at a time like this. We are in receipt of three small books which answer this question. They were published by Pundit Muthusawmy Abricon of the Karunanithi Vithya Sala at Manampuchavadi near Tanjore. On a perusal of these books we understand that a description of the bubonic plague and its successful treatment find place in the ancient medical books of India.

53. The VRITTANTA CHINTAMANI, of the 24th August, says:--

The new Viceroy.

Whether a Conservative or a Liberal be our Viceroy it is the same to our people their pockets become empty. The only difference is that the Conservatives are harsh even in their speech, while the Liberals are soft-speaking, but their deeds are, no better than those of the Conservatives. The out-going Viceroy is of the latter class. His fault is that he listened

762

too much to the advice of those around him and was therefore the cause of all our troubles. It is to be hoped that the coming Viceroy will use his own independent judgment. What is to be regretted is that Englishmen when they come out to India become quite changed from what they were in England. For some years past the Viceroyxx xxx havexx been paying too much attention to foreign affairs and too little to the internal administration of the country. We therefore wish that the new Viceroy will use his experience, fimmness and learning to promote the internal prosperity of the empire.

For the Fortnight ending the 15th September 1898.

No. 17 of 1898.

I. FOREIGN POLITICS.

Remarks on the indifference of the British Government to the grievances of the Indians in Transvaal.

1. The SWADESAMITRAN,x of the 8th Septembee, writes as follows: It is to be regretted that the Transvaal High Court has passed a judgment that the Indians in Transvaal should not be granted license to carry on trade at that place apparently on the score that the European trade there is at stake, in consequence of the fact that the Indians sell their articles at lower rates than the European traders do, inasmuch as the Indians can afford to live on a smaller income than their Europeans brethren. Does it stand to reason to prevent the Indians from carrying on their trade on this ground? Is xit just and proper on the part of the British Government to be disinterested spectators of the grievances of the Indians in Transvaal without trying to redress them? Will the British, who treat their own coutrymen with partiality to the detriment of the interests of the Indians in their own territories, intercede on behalf of the aggrieved Indians in a foreign country, It is a pity that the British, who take pride in being the rulers of India, do not appear to feel it their bounden duty to guard the interests of their Indian subjects.

763

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(k) General.

Release of Mr.Tilak.

25. The SASILEKHA, of the 9th September, referring to the release of Mr.Tilak, remarks that the Government fancifully believing that the English-educated people of India were trying to undermine the very foundations of the British Indian Empire, amended the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Post Offices Act, making such modifications as at once to strike the Native Press dumb. There is not the least doubt that all this has been done without mature consideration and in a hasty hurly-burly manner. The attempts of some friends of India in Parliament did also prove fruitless. Certain benign gentlemen in England, such as Professor Max Miller, Sir William Hunter, Sir Richard Garth and others, submitted a memorial to Her Most Gracirous Majesty Queen Victoria through the Parliament, and, the paper believes, Her Majesty with her usual kindness for the people of India ordered the release of Mr.Tilak.

It adds that the next thing to look for is the repeal of the amendments referred to in the codes, and that the people should be agitating about the matter till such repeal is brought about.

Mr.Tilak's release.

26. The ANDHRAPRAKASIKA, of the 10th September, commenting upon the release of Mr.Tilak, remarks that it would have been very commendable if it had been effected six months ago. Certain irresponsible editors of newspapers created rumours of sedition and the Government, without due investigation, believed them and imagined that Mr.Tilak had already raised a second mutiny and that some further momentous treachery was yet in store. Truth takes its own time to see the light. So, has the Bombay Government learned at last that the apprehensions of last year were all illusory and it has begun to mend what it has misdone. The loyalty of thepeople of India, the paper says, is sure and steady and quite intact.

764

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

45. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 8th September, rejoicing at the release of Mr. Tilak, observes as follows:-The release of Mr. Tilak after so much hubbub cannot reflect any credit on the Bombay Government as its past conduct has been the cause of immense of heart-burning to the people at large who are anxiously waiting to hear him speak. The Bombay Government seems to have made some arrangement with a vakil who is a particular friend of Mr.Tilak. It is likely that one of the conditions imposed by the Bombay Government is that Mr.Tilak should not allow himself to be congratulated by the public. Is it possible for the people to refrain from manifesting their spontaneous and enthusiastic delight at the release of Mr.Tilak? The Bombay Government has made not only Mr.Tilak but also its own delusion and cruelty known throughout the length and breadth of this country. It is just and proper that the Bombay Government should abolish the punitive police force and release certain others whom it has sent to jail in a state of excitement, as such an act would to some extent make amends for all the confusion it has been the cause of.

Reflections on the release of Mr.Tilak.

46. The AGNIKULATHITHAN, of the 10th September, observes that, from the reveneus of this country, the Government of India sets apart for the use of the religious institutions of the Hindus a sum which is very insignificant compared with the enormous amount provided for the use of the Ecclesiastical department in England, and sincerely hopes that provision for a larger sum will be made in the Indian Budget so as to grant the religious institutions of India the necessary aid, in consideration of the circumstance that they are mismanaged and that their funds misappropriated by their managers, in consequence of the fact that Government does not exercise the necessary supervision and control over them.

Necessity to set apart more money for the use of the religious institutions of India

765

47. The S[illegible]DESAMITRAN, of the 13th September, writes as follows:-

Remarks on Lord Salisbury.

With reference to the statement made by Lord Salisbury in his speech in connection with the recent agitation in England about Compulsory Vaccination, that to administer Britain against the wishes of the British is inexpedient, although the Government of India is at liberty to do what it pleases irrespective of the opinion of the Hindus, we are sorry to say that Lord Salisbury should study and act up to the sihes of its subjects more than in Britain; for, if the people in Britain are opposed to a particular measurem all that could happen there would be the retirement of ~~xxx~~ one of the parties constituting the Government; whereas in India, if the people come to know that Government disregards their views, the result would be disastrous to both the rulers and the ruled. The recent agitation in India may be quoted as a glaring instance in point. Had Government acted showing due deference to the feelings of the people of this country, how smoothly would matters have gone on!' When ~~xx~~ we take all these circumstances into consideration, it naturally follows that the higher authorities in whose hands rests the administration of this country are sadly wanting in foresight.

48. The SHEERANJANI, of the 1st August, states that what the

Tribute paid by India to England.

English take home amounts 12 per cent. of the revenues of India, and that they having secured for the people peace, comfort and immunity from foreign invasions, and having also contributed to the improvement of their knowledge and conferred innumerable blessings on them, it is not much that the people should let them have that at least. They are not, however, working for the Indians, as they seem to suppose, fornothing. The English have not been losers in conquering India. They have already, got back what they might have spent for all the wars they waged in India. Further the sepoys and the English soldiers is met from the public revenues of the country, while the English have not

766

expended a pie of their own ~~x~~for the people of India.

52. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 12th September, in expressing its satisfaction at the release of Mr.Tilak, says that simply because two Europeans were assasinated on the Jubilee night the Government was alarmed and was led into the belief that there was a conspiracy on foot to destroy the British power in India and so wanted to make its power felt and Mr.Tilak was chosen as the victim. "The whole proceedings of the Bombay Government was foolish in the extreme," says the editor, "and the folly of the Government was foolish in the extending section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code was greater still." The effect of the prosectuion and the incarceration will, the editor thinks, be that Tilak will be looked upon as a martyr and his influence will be greater than ever before.

The release of Mr.Tilak.

For the Fortnight ending the 30th September 1898.

No. 18 of 1898.

I. FOREIGN POLITICS.

9. The ALHAMI, of the 18th September, A correspondent named Mulla Mirza Khan Sahib, writing from Fiji, says that Indians are ill-treated by the Australians who do not wish that the former should go to their country, and asks the India press to invite the attention of Government to this. The editor observes that the correspondent might have become aware of the intentions of the British Government from the reply recently given by His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock to the address of the people of Tanjore. The Indian press as well as many English papers bitterly compalained against the harsh treatment experienced of India nor the Secretary of State for the Colonies can mend matters either in Natal or in the Transvaal where Indians are treated harshly.

Ill-treatment of the people of India by the Australians.

767

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(k) General.

46. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 26th September, speakinng of the necessity for holding a meeting of the National Congress this year, remarks as follows:-

Observations on the Plague regulations, the Frontier policy and the amendment of the Indian Penal Code.

From a sanitary point of view it would perhaps be well not to have the meeting, but on the other hand, there are so many matters that require to be discussed that the risk must be run. The Plague regulations must be taken in hand, the Frontier policy must be discussed and the extension of section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code must also be considered. As regards the first, there is so much chopping and changing about, that the people are frightened and run away from the town as soon as the plague enters, not so much for fear of the disease, as for fear of Plague regulations. Rumours of all sorts are spread abroad; they say the Government wishes to do all sorts of terrible things, and they hide cases of plague. Rules should be laid down for the whole of the country, and with as little intereference about them as possible. Then there is the frontier business. The late war caused a large sum of money to be spent uselessly. It has shaken the confidence in the authorities as regards frontier affaris, and in all probability this want of confidence extended to other doings of the Government. Then there is the extension of section 124-A, a work uncalled for and unnecessary. It should be undone and the spectre of sedition exorcised.

52. A leader in the KERALA CHANDRIKA, of the 14th September, dwells at great length upon the oppression and despotism to which the illiterate people of interior parts, especially the northern portions of the Chirakkal taluk, are subjected by the village officers, revenue inspectors, police constables and Salt and Abkari peons of those localities. In the eyes of the uneducated helpless inhabitants of those parts, the petty officials above

Deppotism of petty officials in interior parts.

768

mentioned are their all-powerful rulers and the arbitrary acts of the latter, tend only to confirm them in their belief. To draw batta allowance on false pretences, to threaten the people with fresh levying of income-tax, to make false entires in the paimash accounts, to refuse to grant receipts for taxes paid, to dispose of the property of people for arrears of revenue, at very low prices and without giving notice to the owners, are only some of the high-handed proceedings of the village munsif and his karnam (menon). The attention of the authorities is invited to these matters.

VI. MI CELLANEOUS.

Cherumars bought as slaves in Malabar.

71. A leader in the KERALA PATRIKA, of the 24th September, states that slave-trade---to put down which wherever it exists Englishmen are so generous and ready---exists in a certain form among cultivators of the soil in Malabar, specially Mappilas. The Cherumars, an extremely poor race that knows not what liberty is, are brought sometimes at the rate of 8 rupees each by the cultivators who emply them on their ~~lands~~ farms and treat them as part and parcel of their holdings. The slave-~~trade~~Cherumars have great regard and affection for their masters and will not reveal anything calculated to push their masters into jeopardy. The article, however, gives a hint that the slave-Cherumars call their masters by the titlle of Thamburan (a king or god), while they call other Mappilas by the simple name Mappila. The amsam revenue inspectors, says the article, will be able to give additional information regarding this nafarious practice. The attention of the Collector and the Government is invited to the matter.

769

For the Fortnight ending the 15th October 1898.

No. 19 of 1898.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

~~57. The AGNIKULATHITHAN, of the 8th October, suggests the desirability of sending com-~~
~~cer~~

Enhancement of the value of the rupee--a source of material loss to the Indian subjects.

57. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 4th October, observes that a a great deal can be said on the material ~~l~~xoss entailed on the Indian subjects in consequence of the enhancement of the value of the rupee, and refers to it as an instance in which Government takes an unfair advantage of the ignorance of the people of this country and subjects them to great loss without being noticed by them.

Sufferings of the labouring classes in Ceylon.

59. A correspondent to the INDIA MITRAN, of the 8th October, regrets to observe that the poor natives of this country who resort to Ceylon for employment as labourers in the coffee estates of that island are maltreated by their European masters, who, says the correspondent, do not scruple to violate the chastity of the poor women of the labouring classes, and that the Judicial authorities of the place do not administer justice properly as they are bent upon ingratiating themselves with the European proprietors of the coffee estates.

The Congress meeting to be held or not.

61. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 3rd October, thinks that (the intermission in the activity of the Congress committee in Madras is due to the fear that plague may ere long invade Madras, but says that nothing short of the actual appearance of the plague in the town of Madras should prevent the assembling of the Congress, so important are the subjects that ~~that~~ await discussion at this years' meeting.)

770

For the Fortnight ending the 31st October 1898

No. 20 of 1898.

IV. NATIVE STATES.

43. The KARNATAKA PRAKASIKA, of the 31st October, remarks:-

The progress of plague in Bangalore.

Inoculation, which was considered the only protection against plague, has proved not to be so in Bangalore, as a great many who had been inoculated have died within the last two weeks. From the way in which the segregation and contact camps are being managed they appear to be a means invented purposely for depriving men of their life, honour and wealth and fill the pockets of those placed in authority over them. In maintaining these camps the Government must be spending enormous amounts of money, but they have only led to the corpses of high caste people being carted and buried by the Pariahs without any ceremonies. There is a belief, not unsupported by experience, gaining ground in the people that the very sight of these camps is so frightful as to bring on fever at once. The paper therefore calls upon the Government to put an end to the system of segregation camps, the very name of which has become such a terror to the people.

V. PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

48. The AGNIKULATHITHAN, of the 15th October, describing at

A subject for the consideration of the ensuing Congress.

length the sufferings of the people in the mofussil inconsequence of excessive rain in some parts and drought in certain other parts, suggests the desirability of opening Agricultural Banks in view to enable the poor ryots to cultivate their lands instead of roaming about in search of occupations, and earnestly hopes that the subject will engage the attention of the ensuing Congress.

771

For the Fortnight ending the 15th November 1898.

No. 21 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(k) General.

Terror of Mappila sepoys in Cannanore

36. A leader in the MANORAMA, of the 31st October, regards it as very unfortunate that, in spite of the united and repeated representations ~~of~~ by the Vernacular press of Malabar regarding the atrocities ~~and not been pleased in this one~~ and horrors committed by the Mappila sepoys of Cannanore, Government have not been pleased in this one year and a half to pass orders ridding the public of Cannanore of these dangerous men. The extortion from the Brahmin Stamp-vendoe of a sum of Rs.212 in broad daylight was followed only a few days ago by the stillmore babbarous assault on some workmen, and the terror createdamong the people by these ruffians is so great that adhikaris and liquor(?) shopkeepers have had to suspend their due remittance of money into the taluk treasury.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

Remarks on the President of the Welby Commission.

54. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 8th November, regrets to note that Lord Welby, the President of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the expenses of the Government of India, has not as yet submitted his report, although fourteen months have elapsed since the close of the inquiry, and concludes with the remark that the President of the Commission is in duty bound to submit his report although he has not been paid for his work.

A suggestion to Government regarding the plague.

55. The INDIA MITRAN, of the 8th November, reports that more than 90 per cent. of the ignorant people who have not had the benefit of Western civilization are of opinion that inoculation and other measures adopted by Government in connection with the plague are intended more or less to sacrifice a large number of peopel in view

to save the precious life of Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, whose health is becoming more and more unsatisfactory inconsequence of old age, and that all efforts to convince such people of the real state of things will be of no avail, as they are determined to fall victims to the plague in their own houses rather than allow themselves to be taken to the segregation sheds and hospitals. The paper referring to the unpleasant incidents that recently occurred in Bangalore, Hindupur, Salem, Krishnagiri, Coimbatore, Conjeeveram and Trichinopoly, hopes that Government will be pleased to caution those men who spread all sorts of false rumours about the plague calculated to create unnecessary alarm, and to make segregation also optional.

For the Fortnight ending the 30th November 1898.

No. 22 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(d) Education.

Mappila education.

21. A leader in the KERALA PATRIKA, of the 12th November, regrets to see that the different measures adopted by the Government to improve the state of Mappila education in the taluks of Ernad and Walavanad have proved unsuccessful, but does not wonder at it inasmuch as the Mappila boys of those taluks to whom education is intended to be imparted are, owing to their extreme poverty, compelled to earn what little they can towards maintaining themselves and their poor family. Unless, therefore, the Government is prepared to provide for the boarding and other expenses of the poor Mappila pupils, the system of Mappila education as followed by the Government will not, says the paper, be productive of much good. Under the circumstances, the article suggests that it will be a right step in the right direction to establish industrial institutions of the nature of boarding schools in the two taluks where Mappila boys may be trained in useful works of industry. Along with such training they may be given elementary education. The attention of the Government is invited to the matter.

773

(k) General.

44. The QASIM-UL-AKBAR, of the 14th November, in disapproving of the Plague Commission appointed in England under the presidency of Professor Fraser, remarks that, as many eminent doctors have already made inquiries as to the plague, the Commission will not produce any good result, but cost India a great deal of money.

Plague Commission.

V. PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

55. The MULK-O-MILLAT, of the 12th November, says that the British Government, which has been for many years past considering how to improve the land under cultivation and how to better the condition of the indebted cultivators in India, has as yet done nothing. The editor thinks that manure is the only thing that will improve the land and cause it to yield more than it has hitherto done. If it be used largely, the condition of cultivators will be bettered.

The indebtedness of the cultivators in India.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

62. A leader in the KERALA CHANDRIKA, of the 24th November, referring to the approaching Indian National Congress and commenting upon the usefulness of that institution, says that the indifference of the Malayalis in the matter of collecting funds and electing delegates is very reprehensible. The opinion is expressed that, as it is very difficult for the Calicut Congress Committee to collect, by public subscriptions, Rs.3,000, which is the sum allotted to Malabar, they should either make house-to-house collections or divide the district into different divisions and appoint some zealous and earnest workers to make collections in their respective divisions.

The approaching National Congress.

774

For the Fortnight ending the 15th December 1898.

No. 23 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(k) General.

Muhammadans in the public service.

28. The NAIER-I-ASIFI, of the 1st December, writes that during the times of His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock's predecessors, the claims of Muhammadans on high and responsible posts were sadly ignored. It may be justly admitted that during the present administration things have changed and that now Sir Arthur Havelock appreciates the claims of capable Muhammadans. Previously to the present administration the appointments of Sheriff and of Revenue officer of the municipality once monopolized by members of other nationalities have lately been given to Muhammadans. Besides His Excellency has appointed a young educated Muhammadan as an Assistant Superintendent of Police and another highly respectable young man as a Deputy Collector. In consequence of these appointments Sir Arthur has achieved wide popularity during the short period of his administration. The editor winds up his article by requesting His Excellency to nominate a Muhammadan to the Shrievalty on its falling vacant next year and direct the heads of departments to see that the claims of educated Muhammadans are not set aside or overlooked.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

Some objections to the proposed war against the tribes on the north-western frontier.

45. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 5th December, regrets to hear of the preparation on the part of the Government of India to quell the disturbance caused by the "Mad Fakir" on the north-western frontier near the Himalayas, and asserts that the contemplated war will only involve India in deeper debt and subject the poor Indians to greater sufferings, not to speak of the loss of the precious lives of men and horses and camels that may die in enormous numbers is consequence of cold

775

and other adverse climatic conditions, while the advantages would be few even if the English should gain the day, as the territories to be acquired are hilly and capable of yielding little or nothing and as the tribes to be conquered are rude and uncivilized. The paper concludes with the remark that Government will do well to be content with the present vast Indian Empire, the administration of which is not an easy thing, and to devote all its attention and energy to the amelioration of the condition of its Indian subjects whose grievances are manifold, and that the wars like the proposed one must necessarily prevent Government from adopting such measures as will promote the welfare of its subjects; for Government will have little or no time to turn its attention to the administration of this country when it is engaged in useless and expensive wars.

47. The SWADESAMITRAN, of the 9th December, writes as follows:-

Remarks on the late Famine Commission

There is no Government on the face of the earth so merciful, wise and powerful as the British Government. It is really strange that the subjects of such an excellent Government are frequently worried by famine. How is it that the countries of Europe do not suffer from famine so often as India? At the time when Lord Elgin appointed a Famine Commission last year, the people thought that the Commission would inquire into the real causes of the frequent occurrence of famine in India and suggest preventive measures. We now understand that the object of the Commission was quite different. Government is of opinion that to ward off famine is as impossible as to prevent the occurrence of any phenomenon in nature, that the people of this country have no other alternative than to groan under the effects of famine, and that the only course open to Government is to render the famine-stricken people the necessary pecuniary aid out of the amount of taxes collected from the people themselves. What a strange opinion this is! Nothing will induce us to agree to this opinion. We are morally certain that famine will entirely disappear from the land if Government rules this country like other countries,

776

treating the people with justice, minimising the taxes levied on them, giving the representatives of the people due share in the administration of the country and adopting the necessary measures to favour the progress of indigenous trade and commerce, by preventing the interference of foreigners. Had the Famine Commission been appointed for concerting such measures it would have been really beneficial. We cannot resist the conviction that the expense incurred in connection with the recent Commission which was appointed merely to revise the existing FamineCode is a waste, and that the work done by the said Commission could have been done by any one of the Secretaries to Government.

Poverty in India.

48. The ANDHRAPRAKASIKA, of the 3rd December, descanting on the poverty-stricken condition of most of the ryots in India, says that their poverty is due to the following causes:-

(1) The land-tax being increased almost 50 per cent. every 30 years.

(2) The ryots being ousted from their fields in default of payment.

(3) The ryots having to pay the tax whether there be a crop or not. He is consequently driven to the money-lender, who allows the principal sum advanced to increase immensely by adding compound interest remains of the debt continues unpaid for many generations and if anything remains of the produce after the payment of the taxes, it is carried away by the creditor.

The paper says that it is possible only for the Government to rescue the cultivator from sucha condition and suggests the following measures:--

(1) The constant increase of taxes under the plea of settlement should be discontinued. This measure will have a wholesome influence on the ryot to improve the fertility of his lands diligently.

(2) The irrigation channels feeding the fields should be kept always in good order.

(3) The Government should relieve the ryot from the trouble and turmoil caused by the subordinate revenue officials and allow

777

himx fair time to enable him to strike an advantageous bargain for the sale of his produce before paying taxes.

(4) A few agricultural banks should be established in certain chosen localities. Much good will result to the ryots, who may borrow from those banks when necessary and pay back in due time.

If the British Government shrinks tax from taking such steps, is shall have to spend lakhs, may crores, of rupees whenever famine makes it dreadful appearance, to relieve the sufferings of the dying thousands. If the amount it may have to spend on a single occasion, in that way, is expended on channel works, etc., the Government, it says, will not be under the necessity of having to spend even a pie on droughts.

For the Fortnight ending the 31st December 1898.

No. 24 of 1898.

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(k) General.

22. The INDIA MITRAN, of the 15th December, writes:--European soldiers in India are not deservedly punished by Judges for their atrocities; their misdemeanour is more or less due to the view taken by the English papers of the natives of India. It is no wonder that European soldiers as well as English papers look down upon the natives of this country, as Sir George Hamilton himself has remarked xx that India is peopled by savages. It is earnestly hoped that the next Viceroy, who is reported to be an "expert in politics," will redress the grxievances of the people and adopt such measures as will promote the happiness of his subjects.

Remarks on European soldiers in India.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

40. The LOKOPAKARI, of the 23rd December, observes as follows:-- The condition of the poor peas[ants] of this country is most deplor[able]. Most of them are driven to the

Certain suggestions to Government in regard to the improvement of the condition of the peasants.

painful necessity of mortgaging their plough and other agricultural implements, and are unable to pay the Circary dues, to purchase seed-grain and to maintain their families. The Revenue officers spare no pains in recovering from the ryots their kist by adopting coercive measures. Although Government has saved many ryots by opening relief works and by granting remission of kist, it has yet to do a good deal more. It should adopt the necessary measures for supplying the peasants with sufficient quantity of water to enable them to carry on their agricultural operations with considerable facility. As the ryots are put to great inconvenience and have to secure the good-will of several persons if they are to get loan under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, it is desirable that Collectors should go to the several villages of their districts, personally satisfy themselves as to the real condition of the peasants through the village accountants, munsifs, etc., and sanction loans then and there to the deserving. Government will do well to teach the villagers the art of agriculture by prescribing as text-books manuals on agriculture in such of the village schools as seek its pecuniary aid and to encourage the poor ryots, instead of rich agriculturists, to cultivate waste and poramboke lands.

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